

COMFORT

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THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE. BOSTON

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PRIZE WINNERS FOR NOVEMBER.

Howard Markle Hoke, First Prize.
Harriet Walton Seaver, Second Prize.
George H. Smith, Third Prize.
Col. Prentiss Ingraham, Fourth Prize.
Margaret Spencer, Fifth Prize.

A JUST POISE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HOWARD MARKLE HOKE.

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SUPPOSE you know," said Daniel Hazlitt, the junior partner of Bromwood & Company, when Alfred Crown, head of the silk department, came to the private office in response to his summons, "that we have a strong rival in the new dry goods firm across the street." "I have good cause to know it," Crown replied, "for they are pushing my department hard just now on a line of silks. But it is only a question of time until the people find out the poor value of the stuff they are buying over there. Their methods can't succeed in the long run."

"They are succeeding annoyingly well just now," said Hazlitt. "Our old time methods are having a rather severe trial."

Crown barely hid his surprise, and glanced into the adjoining office to see if Mr. Bromwood, the senior partner, was within hearing. He was not, and Hazlitt seemed safe in expressing what the young man considered reasonable opinions.

"I think our record for fair dealing, Mr. Hazlitt, will stand more than the rivalry of the new firm," he said.

"It may prove a costly experiment, though, to stick to the old methods. I have sent for you to suggest that you devise some plan to head off our competitor in this silk matter. I happen to know that one of the new firm's employees can be approached and that an adroit man can induce him to give the name of the manufacturer of this popular line of silks and the prices the firm pays. It seems they bought the entire output for last year. Now, Mr. Crown, I would like you to arrange matters so that we can underbid the firm over there for the next year's production of this line of silk."

Crown did not try to hide his surprise, but the junior partner was unmoved by it. The young man got up from his chair and took one of Bromwood & Company's letter heads from Hazlitt's desk. At the top was a device representing a hand holding a pair of scales, exactly balancing a quantity of goods and a stack of coin. Over it was printed "A Just Poise." This had been the motto of the house ever since Mr. Bromwood's father had modestly started the business many years before.

"Mr. Hazlitt," said Crown, "don't you think this firm will have to adopt a new device when it resorts to such methods for getting trade?" "Do you presume to dictate what the policy of the house is to be?" demanded Hazlitt.

"I have no such intention, sir, but I do wish to say that I cannot treat with this employee in the manner you suggest, and I could not conscientiously ask my clerks to recommend that silk to our customers."

"I must tell you, Mr. Crown, that there is to be a change here. We must adopt more aggressive methods, and we must have employees in sympathy with them."

"A departure from the days of the just poise, sir?"

"As an employee that is not a question for you. The point you are to decide is whether you will do as I suggest."

"I have decided that point. I cannot do so."

"I see that my proposal has taken you by surprise, and I believe you will see it in a different light by morning. Come in then with your answer."

"I will think it over, but my answer will be the same."

He gave a last look into Mr. Bromwood's office as he went out, but the senior partner had not come in. Crown had not dared to ask Hazlitt if Mr. Bromwood was a party to the new policy, for it had been understood that the junior partner was managing the business.

This matter had come to Crown at a very critical time. His marriage had been announced for the next month. If he should not do as Hazlitt proposed he was almost certain to be replaced by a man who would. Ought he to risk Alice's happiness on account of what some of his business friends would term an old time conscience? It needed but a few moments of consideration to see that Alice herself was the

one to decide a question bearing upon her own future; so he told her all about it in the evening.

"I am not surprised, Alfred," she said. "I heard only a few days ago that Bromwood & Company are to be more aggressive, and that Mr. Hazlitt intends to get rid of some of the old employees. It is a part of his plan, I understand, to put Mr. Zandon in your place."

"Parker Zandon!"

"Yes."

"Then good bye to the days of the just poise."

"It looks so, Alfred. Mr. Zandon's interests are being urged upon the firm by some active business men of the city; but I want you to tell Mr. Hazlitt tomorrow morning that you will not do as he asks."

"But suppose I am dismissed, and our marriage announced for next month?"

"We are both strong enough to bear disappointment, if it must come, Alfred."

On his way home Crown met Zandon, who walked some distance with him.

"I'm glad to talk to you, Crown," he said, "for I must tell you that a new era is just ahead of Bromwood & Company. Hazlitt is disgusted with the old fogey methods and is going to push us to the front. I knew five years ago, when he became junior partner, that he would make an active, up-to-date business house of the ancient affair. He had to wait awhile, you know, but he is now ready to cut loose from the back number methods."

"Do you think we ought to risk the reputation that has been won on the principle of the just poise?"

"Oh, that pair of scales will have to go up to the loft with all the other grandfather remnants and ideas. If I were Hazlitt I'd have a new letterhead mighty quick."

"One of a pair of scales with the money end down, Zandon."

"Well, it's money that kicks the beam anyhow, Crown. We're all after money down there—old Bromwood as much as anyone—and I don't mind telling you, in strict confidence, that I am to be a factor in the new policy. I've had the best business influence of the city working in my favor for months. Good night."

Crown stood some minutes considering the advisability of going out to consult Mr. Bromwood, but decided to wait until Hazlitt's plan should be fully disclosed, knowing that, in the event of a dismissal, he would have the right of appeal to the senior partner.

When he reached the store next morning some workmen were rigging a pulley and ropes to a beam that projected from the roof. The head of the ribbon department was watching them and Crown asked him what was to be done.

"They are going to take down that old device."

He referred to a large wooden representation of the hand holding balanced scales. Without waiting to hear any more Crown went to his place and took up his duties. He felt that his connection with the old and honored house was nearly at an end, for Hazlitt would not likely go so far as to take down the ancient sign without Mr. Bromwood's approval. The summons from the junior partner soon came and he responded promptly.

"Good morning, Mr. Crown," Hazlitt pleasantly greeted him. "Please take a chair and wait a few moments. I have sent for Mr. Zandon also."

While he waited Mr. Bromwood came into his own room and sat down at his desk. Hazlitt was not disturbed, nor did he show any disposition to postpone the interview. For the hundredth time Crown went over the reasons that induced him to decline his proposal. He could not see any way to justify an acceptance or to convince himself that the long respected house had not come upon evil days.

While he sat thinking Henry Robertson came into Mr. Bromwood's office. He was a wealthy banker and had been a boyhood and business friend of Crown's father. He had continued this friendship with the young man in a distant way, but had shown no interest in his progress beyond an occasional inquiry. He was reputed to be heartily in favor of modern methods and of pushing business to the utmost limit.

Crown saw that a matter of some importance was to be transacted, and, as Zandon had been sent for, it was likely that Robertson was the man whose influence he had secured. He had never thought of asking outside help to advance his position, and he might have had Mr. Robertson's for the asking. It occurred to him that perhaps he had put too much dependence upon faithfulness to his duties and loyalty to the principles of the house.

Zandon soon made his appearance with an air of confidence that depressed Crown. Hazlitt greeted him pleasantly; then, stepping to the communicating door, requested Mr. Bromwood to come into his office. Bidding Mr. Robertson sit still, the senior partner walked out, spoke to Zandon and Crown in his customary business manner, and sat down.

"Mr. Bromwood," Hazlitt began, "I have asked these two young men to come here to give their views regarding the move I explained to you yesterday. I am glad you can hear them."

"I shall listen with interest," Mr. Bromwood replied, briskly.

"Now, Mr. Zandon," said the junior partner, "have you decided upon any way to bring about the result I detailed to you yesterday?"

"Yes, sir, I think I have a plan that will completely outwit our rivals across the street. I have already invited the employee you spoke of to lunch with me today, and I know a way to get a hold on him so that he can't refuse to give me the name of that silk manufacturer and the price his firm paid for the output of last year. As soon as I have this information I'll be ready to start in an hour for the manufactory with your bid for the output of the next year. In addition, I have thought of this, and I suggest it for your consideration. Why couldn't we agree to pay this man a certain sum every year to stay over there and give us the inside of the firm's methods and plans? We could often forestall them on many lines of goods."

"What is your opinion of that plan, Mr. Bromwood?" asked Hazlitt, turning to the senior partner.

"A very well laid business maneuver," was the reply, "if it will succeed."

"Oh, it will succeed," cried Zandon, proudly, "I'll make it succeed."

"You think, do you, that this line of silk would be an advantage to have on our counters?" Mr. Bromwood asked.

"Oh, well," said Zandon, with a shrug of his shoulders and a sly laugh, "the silk is not what it looks to be, but it catches the customers every time. It's a first class seller and money maker, and that's what we're all in business for, I take it."

"Mr. Crown," said Hazlitt, "you see I've given Mr. Zandon an equal chance with yourself. What plan have you to suggest?"

He leaned expectantly across his desk and Mr. Bromwood, re-adjusting his glasses, looked on with the critical attention of a shrewd business man. Crown rose from his chair, and walking slowly over to the junior partner's desk, said:

"I told you yesterday, Mr. Hazlitt, that I could not perform such a service for this house, and I have not changed my mind."

"Do you mean us to understand, Mr. Crown, that you do not feel competent to deal with our rivals?" Mr. Bromwood asked.

"No, sir, I do not wish you to understand that. What I mean is that I am not able—I should say, willing—to deal with them in the way Mr. Zandon proposes. If I have any suggestion to make, it is to keep the stuff they sell for silk as far from our counters as possible, and continue to give our customers that value for their money that has sustained the motto of the just poise."

"Then you have nothing better to propose than the old time way of doing business?" asked Hazlitt.

"You forget, don't you, Mr. Crown, that we are living in aggressive times?" Mr. Bromwood supplemented.

"No, sir, I do not. We can be aggressive without being dishonest, sir. Catchy methods may win for awhile, but I know that when the people of this city want to buy something good, sir, they come to Bromwood & Company. The best way we can fight that firm over there is to keep that old wooden device in plain sight over our door; but now that it is being torn down I have no hope that my plan will commend itself to you."

"Very well, then," said Mr. Bromwood, rising abruptly, as was his habit when a question was finally settled, "you will act accordingly to our agreement, Mr. Hazlitt."

He went into his office. Hazlitt turned to Zandon and said:

"Mr. Zandon, I will send for you later in the day. I have something to say to Mr. Crown."

The young fellow went out triumphantly. Hazlitt rose from his desk, took up a folded paper, and came around to Crown.

"Give me the pleasure of shaking hands with you as our next junior partner, Mr. Crown," he said, with a smile. "Mr. Robertson is here ready to arrange the money side of the transaction for you. By the way, that old wooden design is being taken down, but only to be repainted and put back fresher and more securely than ever. Our business is to be carried on along the very lines you have so well mapped out this morning. But come into the other office; Mr. Bromwood and Mr. Robertson are waiting for us."

FOLLOWING A SCENT.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HARRIET WALTON SEAVER.

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IS one continued hustle nowadays to get even within sight of the hill of fame, when so many clever fellows are on the alert for something

by which to distinguish themselves and entitle them to a place even at the foot of the ladder among the crowd aspiring for the title of journalist.

And it does seem hard luck when a college bred man with the ordinary amount of ambi-

tion lacks the essential push and so drops out of the rush with the sigh "game not worth the candle" and sinks into the oblivion of an ordinary newspaper-reporter's life. But surely enough one thing, however unimportant in itself, leads to another, and this unsolved mystery concerning the disappearance of Lady Pierpont's three rubies offered me the long looked for opportunity of making a name for myself, perchance at the same time a "scop" for my paper.

The events connected with the mysterious disappearance were these: While traveling in a private car from New York to San Francisco, between eight and nine o'clock on the evening after leaving the Metropolis, three perfect rubies of infinite value set in a heavy gold bracelet had been lost. The fact that none but the porter, maid, a Boston terrier (which Lady Pierpont had in charge for a friend) and the lady herself had entered the car was alone enough to rest suspicion on the two servants. The bracelet was found near the door of the car, where Lady Pierpont remembered having removed her jacket, but the stones had been dexterously taken from their settings.

The train was stopped, the car side-tracked and there they remained for twenty-four hours, until detectives of note had arrived and the maid and porter were placed under arrest.

Among other reporters I was sent out by the New York T—, but the affair seemed so unique,—not for a moment had either suspect left the car and yet not a trace of the jewels was to be found,—that I obtained permission of Lady Pierpont to remain on the spot and assist if possible in locating the missing stones. She was extremely irritable and to add to her unpleasant frame of mind, the dog had early that morning wandered off from the car and had not returned. This however, did not annoy her as it might, were she fond of dogs or had she not agreed to transport this one at the "owner's risk." The weather was extremely hot and whether it was our location or what we could not tell, but a most pungent odor arose toward night which stayed by us the rest of the trip, and the fact that the porter was the only one who did not apparently notice this made me regard him as too big a fool to be able to conceal jewels had he had wits enough to steal them; so I dismissed him from my suspicions and turned my attention to the maid.

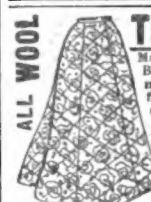
And it was with no regret on my part when the officials declared Jim the guilty party and at once took him to the nearest jail. I congratulated myself on being left an open field—for it had been proven Jim hadn't the jewels on his person—where then were they but on the car?

We attached ourselves to the next train and were en route for San Francisco. But each day as the search became more fruitless the odor became more offensive. And each night about the same time I was awakened by sounds coming from the upper end of the car. I spoke of this to Lady Pierpont, but she was a heavy sleeper and saw no possible connection between this and her missing stones, so directly dismissed it from her mind.

However, I was determined to find out what this meant, and that night I crept from my

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apartment and concealed myself none too soon behind a portiere at the end of the car. Directly I heard the same sounds and some one chopping ice. Now what could the maid—for she was the only other person beside myself and her mistress in the car—what could she possibly want of ice at that precise time every night? and then the picking ceased and I heard a board crack almost behind me. In less time than it takes to tell, the whole apartment was filled with a most nauseating odor. And as I curiously passed out of my concealment I ran against the maid who, as surprised as I, rushed past me in an endeavor to escape me, but returned almost immediately, pushing a small bit of paper into my hand and breathlessly explaining that the porter, Jim, had given it to her on the eve of his arrest. It was too dark to read and as I slipped it into my pocket till I could get my bearings and strike a light the most unexpected of all things happened—the train lurched and jumped the track and I found myself deposited, with scarce a scratch save a bruised head and a twisted ankle, in a ditch.

To tell how I passed the next few hours would only be to dwell on the suffering of the more unfortunate than I, and not coming any nearer the solution of the mystery. Both Lady Pierpont and maid, among many others, were killed outright. And as I watched the wrecking hands here and there I pulled from my pocket a crumpled scrap of paper. Then the whole scene came back to me. The missing rubies and that sickening odor—and I read:

"I fed the dog the stones wrapped in pieces of meat. Dog died. Keep ice on body in corner of car so it won't smell strong. I'll get word to you later and divide."

A short time later with the assistance of the pungent odor, I discovered the dog's remains and after performing an intensely disagreeable operation extracted the jewels, of which I am the undisputed possessor today. And though they are valued up in the thousands each, not for worlds would I turn them into their cash value, for from that time all my ventures have been successful, due, I confidently believe to the talismanic power of the three rubies.

The Evil Eye of Lieutenant Melendy.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY GEORGE H. SMITH.

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AMONG the things which the dispatches from Manila did not report were the peculiar circumstances connected with the case of Lieutenant James Melendy.

This officer was in charge of a scouting party sent out from the town of Unatonga. The party was ambushed by a force of Tagalog natives, and several of the Americans were killed. Lieutenant Melendy and one private were taken prisoners. The remainder of the scouting party escaped, eventually getting back to Unatonga.

When the return of the last of the stragglers to camp made it certain that the lieutenant and one of his men were in the hands of the natives, the officer in command at Unatonga began energetic efforts to secure their release. A squad of men was sent out from the American outposts towards the Tagalog stronghold. At a suitable distance they were halted, and one man advanced alone, displaying a white handkerchief tied to the bayonet of the gun he carried. This man stopped a hundred yards in advance of his companions, and displayed his signal. After a considerable delay he was joined by a messenger from within the native lines. The result of these negotiations was the bringing of two letters to the American commander. One of these letters was from the natives, setting forth, in the Spanish language, that they would exchange Lieutenant Melendy for a young Tagalog leader named Arolan, who had been captured by the Americans some time before and kept in confinement at Unatonga. With this letter was a note from Lieutenant Melendy himself, begging that his rescue be hastened.

"Private Collins, who was captured with me, has already died of fever," he wrote, "and unless I can be exchanged I almost hope that I may go as he did. I am kept under a shed, tied by the legs to two posts, and never left without a guard. At night the Tagalogs, men and women both, gather around me and flourishing their *barongs*, tell what they are going to do with me if Arolan is not returned."

"Do not try to rescue me by force. My guards have orders to kill me rather than have me recaptured."

Two days after these letters were received Unatonga answers to them we

HAVE WOMEN SOULS?

"If women have no souls to save—as some sects teach—is there to be no salvation for their bodies?"

"Even when Nature, who does make horrible blunders, has decreed that motherhood shall be life-long invalidism and misery, if not death-dealing, still most women more or less cheerfully do their duty in the sphere in which man is willing they should live."—THE GENTLEWOMAN.

The writer in *The Gentlewoman* is only voicing a widely accepted theory in the statement that "Nature has decreed that motherhood shall be life-long invalidism and misery, if not



GRACE DARLING A FINE EXAMPLE OF THE SOULLESS (!) WOMAN.

death-dealing." But it is a bold challenge to Nature, to say that "she makes horrible blunders."

"Are God and Nature then at strife, that Nature lends such evil dreams?"

If there be one woman in all the world who has found the result of maternity to be not "life-long invalidism and misery" but life-long happiness and health, then that woman takes up the challenge thrown down to Nature. But more than this. If there were but one woman who had been emancipated from the sufferings of her sex, who had been led out of that darkened chamber to which each month condemned her, who had been rescued from invalidism and misery as a consequence of motherhood, then that one woman stands as type of the possibility of health to every other woman.

AN ARMY OF WOMEN.

There is an army of 500,000 women, representing in their ranks every form and place of female weakness, so-called, from mere irregularity in the young woman to chronic disease of the womb involving complications that have kept the victim practically bed-ridden for ten or even fifteen years, and every one of these has been perfectly and permanently cured. Expressions such as "I am a new woman!" "I never knew what it was to live before!" "I am gone back again to be robust and rosy-cheeked as in youth!" "I have never been able to save a child before; now I have the brightest of healthy babies!" "I scarcely suffered at all with my last child; it was wonderful,"—such expressions teem in the thousands of letters received from grateful women in the past thirty years.

Mrs. Carrie B. Donner, of Dayton, Green Co., Wis., writes: "I can highly recommend Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription—having taken it for nine months previous to confinement. I suffered scarcely any compared with what I had at other times."

Mrs. Annie Blacker, 629 Catherine Street, Syracuse, N. Y., writes: "Your medicines have done wonders for me. For years my health was very poor. I had four miscarriages, but since taking Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription and 'Golden Medical Discovery' I have much better health, and now I have a fine healthy baby."

And who has wrought this deliverance for women? What means have brought about these many cures?

The work has been done by Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician of the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y. The general means has been the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription, supplemented by his special advice where special difficulties had to be overcome.

The endeavor to do what has never been done before with a proprietary medicine, adapt it to individual needs and peculiar cases, was the origin of the offer of free consultation by letter with Dr. Pierce.

The medical profession has only a few leaders. The mass of the doctors are followers. They cannot originate. They follow somebody else in method of treatment and in the use of medicines. For this reason they cannot make allowance for the variations of individual temperaments which are so important a feature in the treatment of diseases of women. They treat all alike. Delicate, nervous,

FINELY FIBERED WOMEN

are treated without any consideration of the difference between them and the more coarsely organized of their sex. And in this way women are often treated for the wrong disease. When the womb is affected various nervous conditions, even insanity. Un-
tentioners treat the patient for the

disorder, not appreciating the real cause.

J. S. Carlisle, Esq., of Manchester, Coffee Co., Tenn., writes: "I have been using your medicines for the last sixteen or eighteen years in my Poor House. I am superintendent of the Coffee County Poor House and Asylum combined. Your 'Favorite Prescription,' 'Golden Medical Discovery,' and 'Pleasant Pellets,' are the best medicines for the diseases for which they are recommended that I ever used. They saved my wife's life at the time of 'change of life.' I also cured the worst case of lunacy that we ever had with your 'Favorite Prescription.' The case had been under the doctor's care for three years. I used your medicine about seven or eight months and the patient was as well as she ever was in her life. This was nine years ago, and she is still in good health."

Dr. Pierce is a leader, not a follower. He has devoted more than thirty years to the treatment and cure of diseases of women. He is head of one of the most important medical institutions in the land. People come from all over the country to be treated at the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, at Buffalo, N. Y. To meet these demands, Dr. Pierce has gathered about him a medical staff of nearly a score of physicians. These men are all specialists in some branch of medicine or surgery.

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If these facts are as stated, if the claims above made are true, there is no reason for another year of suffering for you. Are you a sufferer every month? You can be cured. Do you suffer daily with aching back, bearing-down pains, the miseries of mind and body which



THE SOULLESS (!) WOMAN AT SANTIAGO.

follow diseases of the womb and other organs of generation? You can be cured. There are only two chances in a hundred that your cure will not be perfect and life-lasting. There are ninety-eight chances in a hundred that you will enter on a new period of existence.

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the same way that the first communications had been sent. The reply to the Tagalog chief stated in Spanish that the representative of the American Government at Unatonga required more time to consider the matter of an ex-

change of prisoners.

The letter to Lieutenant Melendy was in English, which none of the Tagalogs could read. "Arolan has suddenly and most mysteriously disappeared," it said. "Until your letter was received we supposed he had escaped and returned home. Since we heard from you that he is not there we have had the town searched for him repeatedly, but to no purpose. Try and stave off the Tagalogs with some excuse, while we keep up the hunt; and don't lose courage."

That evening the natives gathered around the prisoner's shed, as usual, as the visitors to a park would have flocked to the cage of some strange new beast. Melendy wondered gloomily how long he could "stave them off," when he happened to see a man in the crowd holding a slim Malay game cock under each arm. There came to his mind an account which he had read in a current book of Philippine travels,* of how the writer had mystified a group of Filipinos by hypnotizing a native fowl. Every farmer's boy knows the trick.

"Give me that bird!" he said in Spanish. "I want to make *anting, anting*."

Anting anting is a Philippine term which is applied to the most powerful charms of which the natives can conceive.

The owner of the birds demurred, at first, but finally handed over one of them. The crowd pressed closer, curious, but half frightened. The officer took the wild-eyed, scared fowl, and tucking the bird's head beneath one wing swung him in a circle five times through the air. When he laid him down upon the ground the fowl might have been dead, for any sign of life he showed.

The natives looked on silently, but when Melendy reached for the other bird they shrank back to give him room. Slowly he swung this fowl like the other, the motions of his hand throwing great shadowy circles in the firelight. He stooped to put the dazed bird down, when—

"Arolan! Arolan!" A woman's voice cried out the name, as if in deadly fear, adding, a moment later, "Help him! Help him! Help him!"

It was the daughter of the Tagalog chief, sunk down on her knees among the other women, close by the posts to which the officer was hobbled. The woman's wide open eyes were full of fear, but it was not a fear of anything she saw close at hand. Her eyes were looking beyond the shed, and the fire, and the frightened natives, out through the darkness to something which they saw far away.

Lieutenant Melendy had been a medical student before the company of the National Guard to which he belonged had been called out, and he knew enough of hypnotism to recognize its subject.

"Where is Arolan?" he demanded of the woman, losing not a moment of time while her trance should last.

"He is in an old house. Canes wave around it. He is wounded and dying. I see him lying on the floor, and hear him groan for water. O help—" The voice grew fainter, and stopped. The speaker struggled to her feet and gazed about her curiously, wondering why her companions looked at her so strangely. All shrank back from the shed, and hurried away in the darkness to their thatched huts to talk in whispers of the white man's evil eye.

But the prisoner, before he slept that night, wrote by the light of the watch fire a letter to the American commander, giving a full and careful account of what had happened.

"Perhaps this will not amount to anything," he wrote. "What happened may have been merely the hysterics of a half-wild girl. It is possible, though, that this was one of those rare instances which come to hint to us the existence of powers or forces which are not yet understood. It may mean much to me, or nothing."

The next morning it was not easy to find a messenger to carry this letter to Unatonga. The natives were divided between fear of what would happen to them if they took it, and fear of what the wonder-working writer of the epistle might do to them if they refused to take it. Finally a Tagalog warrior who was the possessor of an unusually powerful *anting anting* consented to go.

Before the courier started the lieutenant added a postscript. "I find my performance of last night," he wrote, "has gained for me the reputation of having an evil eye. It is said I have bewitched the chief's daughter, who, it seems, was to marry Arolan. Her father, the Tagalog chief, is not here now, but unless Arolan shows up before the chief returns it is easy to see my finish. I could wish it had been different, but it is all for the same thing in the end."

There followed some messages to be sent back to his home in the States; one to his father, and one to a young woman who was reading eagerly each day's Philippine dispatches in the daily papers. It was hard for the lieutenant to write the last few sentences, but not half so hard as it was for his commander to read them.

Three days later the Tagalogs were gathered about the prison shed to see the American officer die. The native chief had come home. To him, trying the keenness of his *barong's* edge, a sentinel came running with word that

*Dean Worcester's.

a party of white soldiers were come in sight. "They are waving a white flag," the man said, adding, "they are hurrying up the hill, far this side the usual meeting place."

"Send men to meet them," the chief said, and waited.

Arolan was found. "The Tagalog girl saw him, all right enough," the message to Melendy said. "We found him in an abandoned native hut, in the cane brake outside the town. He had almost gone free, one night, but a picket saw some one creeping towards the brake, and fired, having no thought it was any one but a scout, and not knowing in the darkness, afterwards, if his shot had hit its mark. Arolan, wounded, was able to drag himself into this hut and lie there. Although a young man, and strong, it is a miracle he was not dead before we found him. I see no reason now why he should not recover, though, and write his chief with this that if you are still alive he shall be sent home as soon as able. God grant this may not be too late."

A week later two parties met half way between the American and Filipino lines, and the convalescent Arolan, borne upon a litter, was exchanged for Lieutenant Melendy. Before the Tagalog party passed out of sight, the lieutenant, looking back, saw a young woman run down the hill to meet it. When she reached the litter she knelt beside it and clasped the wounded man upon it in her arms.

The Eagles on the Shoulder Straps.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY COL. PRENTISS INGRAHAM.

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AN a woman love two men at the same time, honestly truly love two, and feel indifferent as to which should call her wife?

"It is a question that has fairly broken its way within my heart, and within the hour."

"Only a short time since Carrol Ames held my hand, and asked me to be his wife. I loved him, I still love him, and the answer was almost given, when suddenly before me appeared Frank Farral, coming, I knew, to ask me the same question."

"I did not answer the one as I had intended;

I could not, so hastily bade him wait until he returned from Cuba with an eagle on his epaulettes, and slipped my ring upon his finger."

"Poor fellow! He mentioned something about how he would win the eagles or lose his life, and hastened away as Frank Farral entered the room. I knew he had taken my answer as a pledge."

"Then came the story of love, the same request from Frank Farral to become his wife, and again a 'Yes' quivered on my lips, when, was it prophetic, a shadow fell between us and it seemed that I saw the outstretched hand of Carrol Ames. Thus I gave the response as to the other one, and placed my bracelet upon his wrist."

"He too took it as an acceptance, and tomorrow they sail to Cuba, both officers in the same regiment, both splendid noble fellows; and which one do I love? Some way my heart tells me that I will marry one of these men, or—"

"The beautiful girl, for she was beautiful in face and form, stood by the window where she had parted first with one, then with the other of the two young officers, rivals with many others in the pursuit of her hand and heart, the former carrying a fortune with it."

A brilliant society butterfly, never before had she been forced to analyze her own heart as on that day, and as the twilight gathered about her, she could not but feel that she had acted both the tyrant and the coward, for had she not sent two brave men forth to win her by the price she had set upon her love—the eagle upon their shoulder straps."

She was a coquette; she played with the hearts of honest men for the pleasure it gave her; but now in the gloaming the shadows gathering without seemed creeping into her heart until, with a shudder she walked rapidly to another room where the bright gas-light dispelled the gloom, and from her lips came the bold words:

"If I have done wrong I accept my fate."

Two men, splendid specimens of perfect manhood, white-faced, fearless, determined, awaiting in line of battle for the word that must soon come, to storm the Spanish stronghold beyond the dense foliage in which their regiment lay concealed, crouching before the charge that must end in the death grapple."

One of these two officers was Carrol Ames, the other Frank Farral, both of them that day in command of a battalion. The two were beloved by their brother officers, idolized by their men, and it was generally prophesied that they would fight their way rapidly up the difficult ladder of promotion, or find a grave in Cuba."

They had been the best of friends until a woman's hand came between them, and friendship is but a name where love rules heart and brain. Each man had left home believing he had won the love of a true woman, though she had not then told them in so many words. Each man felt a sympathy then, as Death's dark wing was hovering over them, for the other, and Frank Farral stepped quickly to where his one time friend stood some distance

apart from all others, extended his hand and said earnestly:

"Carrol, old fellow, let us be friends now, for frankly I confess had you won the love of Lucille Bruce instead of I, my hand would have been offered in warmest congratulation."

Carrol Ames regarded him with a look of intense surprise mingled with indignation, and the silence that followed was at last broken by the low uttered words:

"Had I won? Great God, man! I did win, you lost!"

"Do you mean to assert that you won the love of Lucille Bruce who is pledged to me?"

"I mean that as far as woman can do so without words, Frank Farral, Lucille Bruce pledged herself to me, told me to come back to her wearing a Colonel's rank on my shoulder straps—and see I wear her ring and—"

"Say no more, Ames, for I believe you, and let me add that to-day will be the one for you to win your eagles—or death."

"We have got to charge a steep rugged hill ahead of us, upon which the Spaniards are entrenched, and orders are simply to take it."

"I am aware of what our orders are and what my duty is, sir."

"Doubtless, but let me suggest that the Spaniards' flag on the staff at the hill top is a trophy well worth having, and the man who pulls it down goes a long way toward winning rapid promotion. I intend to strive for that flag, as a souvenir of Cuba to bear back to our home and lay it at the feet of the fair Lucille—do you dare follow me, Carrol Ames?"

The tone was cold, cynical, the words pointed to inflame a brave man to a desperate act.

"Dare I follow you? I shall lead, follow if you dare."

These words came through shut teeth, and with a smile Frank Farral returned to the head of his men, having uttered no word after the first to prove what he deemed his claim for the love of Lucille Bruce.

He had seen and recognized the ring worn by Carrol Ames as one he had often seen upon Lucille's engagement finger and it was proof that the girl was playing one of them false.

Her bracelet was still upon his right arm, caught back out of sight, but now he allowed it to drop down around his wrist in full view, and a valuable trinket it was.

Suddenly a General and his staff rode along the line and disappeared in the distance. He had only said: "Stand ready men! there is deadly work cut out for you!"

Then came the clear notes of the bugle sounding the advance, and every officer grasped his sword hilt, every man his rifle, while orders ran from lip to lip.

On marched the men, and the rattle of the Mausers was heard ahead, then the lines increased their step to a double quick, and loudly with thrilling and forbidding notes the bugle sounded the charge and the deadly assault was begun.

The Spanish stronghold had been won at the sword and bayonet point, and where revolvers and clubbed rifles played their part in the orgie of death.

All the way up the steep hillside, dead and wounded men lay scattered, and on the summit there were ghastly heaps of Spanish dead while American soldiers panting like hounds had thrown themselves down to rest after victory well and dearly won.

Amid the heap of Spanish dead lay an American officer wearing the number of his regiment. Another officer, with his hand clutching the Spanish flag he had hauled down from its staff, stood near, sadly gazing down upon the slain. Stooping, he took from the body of the dead a few valuables and ordered:

"Throw the colors over him men, for never man died more bravely, and he fell with the Spanish flag almost within his grasp."

"But you had already cut the flag down, sir, and those who saw you say you'll get your eagles for this day's work, Captain," and a cheer answered the words of the enthusiastic soldier.

Echoing through the silent streets of the city of the Dead was heard the music of a band as it led the way toward an open grave. The tramp, tramp of soldiers was heard, and in their midst was carried a flag-covered coffin. Behind them came many carriages, for a hero was being buried, his remains sent from Cuba to find resting place in the family burying ground, and many kindred and friends were there to mourn him dead.

The rifles rattled a farewell volley over the grave, a bugle plaintively sounded "taps" and the vast concourse turned away from the mound now hidden beneath flowers.

One carriage turned out of the retreating line, was halted some distance off, and a woman deeply veiled retraced her way to the hero's grave. There she stood with bowed head, and toward her, from the shelter of some foliage came a man in full uniform.

She heard his steps when close at hand, started, and throwing back her veil she extended her hand:

"Why Major Farral—"

"Colonel, Miss Bruce, for I received my Colonelcy of Volunteers three days ago."

"Allow me to congratulate you upon winning your eagles so quickly, but I supposed you were in Cuba."

"A wound gained for me two months' leave; but permit me to say I need no congratulations, Miss Bruce, above the grave of my murdered friend."

"Murdered! I have heard how nobly poor Captain Ames died leading a charge, or rather how he followed you up that terrible hill—it makes me shudder; but why do you say he was murdered?"

"He was, by the two who now stand by his grave, you and I, Lucille Bruce, for you sent him to face death, as you did me, within an implied pledge of love, and I knew it from his lips, and dared him to follow where I led. He did follow, and lost his life while I am spared."

"Here is the ring you gave him, and at your feet I fling the bracelet given me as a silent pledge of love, for you are not worthy the love we two gave you."

He threw the bracelet at her feet, she having mechanically taken the ring, and like one in a dream saw him walk away.

Picking up the bracelet she turned from the grave, almost reeling at first; but entering her carriage, said sternly to the coachman:

"Home!"

The ring and bracelet are seen to-day upon the hand of Lucille Bruce, but her beautiful face wears a saddened look, for she has learned her bitter lesson well and though

"Smiles may tremble on her lips
Tears are in her heart."

OUTWITTED BY PEGGY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARGARET SPENCER.

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NOTHER Census! The same rush, push and agony to "get in." I thought the last one ten years ago would kill me, but here it is; ten thousand women begging, weeping and asking for help! I wouldn't mind, but not half of them need the places and only keep deserving ones out."

Tom Seward was literary. He was an elect of old "Newspaper Row," at the capital—a great power in editorial rooms, correspondent of the "Spouting

Horn," "Breezy War," and sent live messages from Congress to the east and west. Wrote fine "Leaders," prophesied nobly on "what's to turn up next!" When particularly solid and good he dashed off spiritual articles for the "church" and "church union." Even odes and sonnets fell gently from his pen.

He was a power in Newspaper Row—and in his bachelor home on a beautiful avenue at the capital, an ideal undisputed head. But for once he was outwitted. Nobody knew just when this home came into existence. One wintry day it sprang into light and life. The first night was dark outside, but through yellow silk curtains leaped the gold and crimson firelight; visions of books and pictures, swift flutterings of a soft gown and curls. The other boys in the row said "lucky Tom! a sister to make his home beautiful." Tom said "Yes, my youngest sister Peggy, the last of the flock, uncalled for."

Tom was ten years older, perhaps wiser than ten years ago, but his opinions on the census were the very same.

On this particular evening with a storm outside, but Paradise within, Tom lay on the pretty home-made divan, Peggy's pride, smoking his cigar, while his sister deftly slipped the scarlet wool over her white fingers as she knitted a spread for the divan—for red was Tom's color. "Did you know Tom that Mary Wright and Sue Jones had received their appointments?"

"Appointments to what?"

"Why the Census, of course!"

"What in thunder Peg do you know or care about the Census? It's to be hoped those girls will fail to get places and many more as silly as they."

"But Tom, how splendid to earn money and be independent; able to help the poor and do a world of good."

"There are other ways of doing good Peggy. Can't you see how these women with homes and comfortable means fill the places needed by widows, orphans and the hundreds of struggling girls and wives; some, who by their work support families?"

A great silence fell upon the two.

"Tom—"

"Well Peg—"

"I am going to try and get into the Census in July!"

"The devil!"

"No, the Census!"

"Elizabeth Maria Seward!" Tom rose from the divan, and slammed himself into a chair by the fire, for the evening was chilly.

"I'm in dead earnest Tom, the senator from our old home has promised to give me one of his six appointments as soon as I pass the examinations."

Tom looked fully seven feet as he stood before his little yellow-haired sister.

"Peggy, I shall never consent to any such thing! You may cry and moan and pray and get into tantrums, but right here I draw the line. You! With every comfort, a beautiful home, begging a government position to work from 9 till 4 like a factory girl!"

The scarlet yarn ran swiftly through Peggy's fingers, as she quietly replied—

"Ladies work in all public offices, Tom."

"Of course they do! Noble womanly women, earn their daily bread and carry the burdens of needy, loved ones all through life. I honor them and work for them, that's the devil of it all scraps of girls like you, queens of their homes, with abundance of means, filling the places needed by the army of less fortunate ones. I blush for any man who will allow his mother, wife, sweetheart or sister to draw from Uncle Sam one dollar, so long as he has health and brains to give them a home and the comforts of life. These girls Peggy use their money for furbelows and stuff!"

Another silence.

"Tom, dear, do you think the examinations are very difficult?"

Tom turned his head and took one sharp look at his sister's blue eyes and curly head, for very wonder at this audacious question after

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his fierce, decisive remarks. He actually smiled and asked sarcastically.

"How are you Peg on compound interest and partial payments, and where is Alaska or Idaho?"

The doorbell gave a furious ring. An imperative message from Newspaper Row. Tom banged the door and was gone.

The seeds of ambition for some reason had sprung up in Peggy's heart, and when wise Tom supposed that they, like Jonah's gourd, would soon perish, he was mistaken. She looked in the hall mirror, tucked Tom's big umbrella under her arm, pushed her curls severely back off her face, and said slowly, "Peg we'll try."

Long after midnight Tom dashed into his room, packed his bag and gathered together his papers.

"Peggy darling, off for Boston. Joe is very ill, must take his desk in Herald office; may be gone a month; get old Ellen to stay with you; have a good time child, and write me every day."

With two arms about his neck, curls tucked down on his breast, the softest, sweetest kisses on his lips, he only said:

"Good bye—sweet Peg—good bye—" with never a thought of Census appointments, again.

"Tom—oh, Tom stop a minute," called Peggy.

"Well, what is it?" shouted back Tom.

"You won't mind, will you? if I—I pass—"

"No, no," and as Tom jumped on the car, he muttered: "pass—pass fiddlesticks! the darling goose, bless her! She's only talking to see what I'll say."

Tom said he didn't mind.

Peggy slipped off her wrapper, and hopped into bed with a smile.

"Yes—Peg—you and I will get into the Census!"

Six busy weeks for Tom in the Herald office. Six very busy interesting weeks for his little sister in Washington. Her examinations were royally passed, her appointment made with short delay and the quiet dignified Miss Elizabeth Seward gave entire satisfaction to her chief, and—to Peggy.

Newspaper Row and Tom's club gossiped a little; made wry faces and frowned; but Tom was out of their reach; and as for Tom's sister none thought it best to criticize.

"Joe Grey" came back to his desk, and Tom was going home.

"Seward," said one of the Boston Staff. "Know an Elizabeth Seward of Washington? maybe kin of yours?"

"Well," replied Tom, "rather near kin! What about her?"

Tom read the item in the morning Herald: "Miss Elizabeth Seward, a young, beautiful Washington girl who has been from the first greatly interested with Mrs. John Russell Young, in the room for the blind, in the new library, has become a member of the society, and yesterday, placed in the home at her own expense, a lovely child—totally blind, whose mother is an invalid, and wholly without means. Miss Seward is one of our most enthusiastic workers in this good cause."

"How the deuce did Peg manage to save enough for that outlay. Queer she didn't consult me!" and all the way to Washington Tom thought upon this "fad" of Peggy's.

Never such a welcome home! never so beautiful a little sister, and good dinner, and sunshiny home!

"Peg you darling, tell me how you managed. I would have sent you more money, if you'd have let me into the secret."

"Tom, I earned money enough."

"Earned it?"

"Yes, I've had one month's pay, and shall soon have another—and—"

"Peggy—did you—did you—"

"Yes! you precious old stubborn Tom I did! I am a Census clerk! and you love me all the more! Don't you see how I am improved?"

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CURRENT TOPICS AMERICAN HISTORY



FOR several months, in fact, since the commencement of our late war, COMFORT has been giving short epitomes of the current history of America in connection with the war itself and the after events which were in themselves a part of the war. America by the outcome of this struggle has taken such an advanced position among the nations of the world that it is no longer possible to relate only those events which happen within our own borders to record the passing history of the Great Republic. For this reason, for a time at least, COMFORT will in each number publish a brief resume of the more important events in the happenings of the world, which more or less directly influence the history of our own country. Without a tempting so serious a work as a general history of our times, it will be COMFORT's endeavor to point out some of the more important matters and to give its readers such information in a concise form as will enable them to understand some of the articles which are daily seen in the newspapers.

The entire American press has been full of Admiral Dewey for the past month and pictures of him in every possible pose, position and uniform have appeared on every hand. The country has been almost carried off its feet by this outbreak of Dewey enthusiasm. It is to be remembered that few people under forty years of age have the slightest recollection of the Civil War, its heroes and its battles. The Spanish War is the first conflict that a very large proportion of our citizens have been brought in contact with. Had the war lasted longer we should have looked at its events with more discrimination and have judged the events more evenly. As a matter of fact there has been a constant exaggeration of the late conflict largely brought about by sensational and modern journalism which seems to delight in magnifying most unimportant events. But to return to the central figure. Never in ancient or modern times in the whole history of the world has a returning conqueror been received by his people with the enthusiasm and applause that has greeted Admiral Dewey.

As has been told in these columns, he returned from Manila in a leisurely fashion, being received with the highest honors at every stopping place on his route, and finally leaving Gibraltar for the run to this side to be in season for his reception in New York, which was planned to take place September 29-30. As the Admiral himself remarked he has always had a habit of being a day or two early instead of an hour behind, and so to the surprise of every one the stately *Olympia* sailed into New York harbor early one morning just two days earlier than expected. From this moment the pent up enthusiasm was let loose and every kind of patriotism could suggest was shown the hero of the day.

The naval and land parades taking place on the days scheduled and the fireworks and electrical displays in the evening so far surpassed anything of the kind in modern history that there seems nothing to compare them with. Among the gorgeous decorations was the Triumphal Arch which appears at the head of this article, a free gift from the artists of the city. It is hoped that this wonderful piece of statuary will be reproduced in permanent form in place of the perishable material of which it was formed.

After the grand display in New York Admiral Dewey went to Washington where he was enthusiastically received as the Nation's guest as he had been in New York itself. There is no doubt that the President has eagerly sought his advice in the Philippine question and that the result of these interviews will soon be apparent. Much to the surprise of many people, who hoped it would be otherwise, Admiral Dewey while not friendly to General Otis, seems to be the strongest supporter of expansion and does not hesitate to say that neither Cuban nor Filipinos are as yet prepared for self-government. It is to be regretted that the physical strain of the past two years and the further excitement of this remarkable reception have somewhat told upon his health.

Although the world has been flooded with pictures of Admiral Dewey, COMFORT is certain that the latest photograph which is here reproduced will please our readers and give them a correct idea of his present appearance.

Speaking of remarkable men we are reminded of the successful career of a statesman from the fact that he was recently indisposed, although rallying with remarkable vigor. Hon. James Ware Bradbury of Augusta, Maine, is a phenomenal figure in America's history and a man whose life brings us in touch with some of the most remarkable men in our own history. Senator Bradbury was born over ninety-seven years ago and went to the little red school house in a Maine village, afterwards studying at Parsonsfield Academy. In the

class of 1825 at Bowdoin were graduated a number of distinguished men afterwards famous in literary and political life. Among the number were Franklin Pierce, afterwards President of the United States; Longfellow, the poet; Hawthorne, the author, and many others. Of this famous class Mr. Bradbury was a member. He came to Augusta as a young man and embarked in the profession of law.

From his success in this line he became a noted democratic leader in New England, and was elected to the United States Senate from Maine in the days of the great giants of debate and oratory, Clay, Benton, Calhoun, Webster. Since his retirement from Congress he has taken active interest in public affairs and no later than in the campaign of 1896 proclaimed himself in favor of a gold standard in a letter which for logic, power and vigor of thought was unsurpassed by any document of the campaign. Friends all over the Union hope that the grand old man may survive beyond the century mark.

The success of our navy in the Spanish war, and especially the magnificent reception of Admiral Dewey, have stimulated the great interest which was already felt in everything pertaining to our navy. The completion of two of the latest battleships of the new navy, in connection with the return of the great Admiral, cannot help calling to mind the men and material that form our navy, and which together have placed it in the high standing which it now occupies among the navies of the world. From a low class naval power, the United States within ten years has risen so rapidly that last year she stood fourth in the list of the naval powers of the world, a position which, so far as actual numerical strength is concerned, she will probably hold for some time, as but two nations are building ships faster than we are with the exception of Great Britain, whose policy always is to have a fleet equal to the combined fleets of any other two nations. But notwithstanding the inferiority in point of numbers, it is doubtful if any nation except Great Britain has really the naval power that the United States has at the present time. Last month the *Kearsarge*, the first of the two great battleships recently built, had her official trial and surprised both the contractors and the Government by making much more than the necessary contract time on this trip. By this performance she stamped herself as one of the swiftest battleships in the world.

Our readers may often see accounts of official trials, and may not exactly know what is meant by some of the terms. In all European nations, a trial of any warship is made over a course of one measured mile, and figured out from that basis. By these means the engineers are able to "bottle up" steam until it reaches more than the desired pressure and then make a spurt for the one mile; but the tests of the United States Government are much more exacting, as the test has to be measured over an ocean course on a sustained speed of four hours, and including at least one complete turn instead of straight away. By these means, although these ships often reach a mile burst which would entitle them in any foreign navy to a rating of 20 knots or more an hour, the average for the four hours will bring them down to between 16 and 17 knots; so that although on paper it might seem that many English or French ships were much faster than the United States ships of the same class, it is undoubtedly true that the American ships on sustained speed excel anything built, and it is a question if any battleship could on a short race prove itself the superior. No battleship in the world has ever equalled the wonderful performance of the *Oregon* in her wonderful race around the Horn at a sustained speed.

The *Kearsarge*, which is shown in our illustration, is one of the most complete battleships in the world besides having immense battery strength, her weight has been greatly reduced by the double turret system which is an innovation. By this means her eight-inch guns are superimposed on the turret containing the thirteen-inch guns, so that the equipment for these turrets only weighs about two-thirds what it would if it were four distinct turrets. Other vessels, notable in their special classes, which are being built will be described at another time.

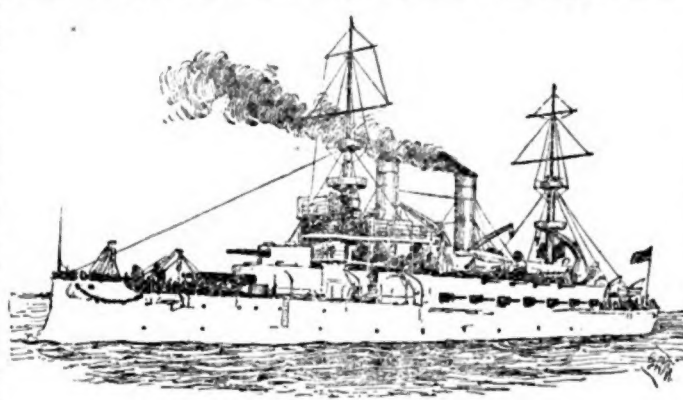
The preliminary skirmishes on the line of the great presidential contest which will take place next summer have already commenced. From the general appearance of the field at this time President McKinley is practically sure of the Republican nomination by acclamation. On the democratic side Mr. Bryan is again in the lead, though many of the party including the old "Gold democrats" desire to take another man. Much talk has been made for Admiral Dewey to stand as a candidate on account of his great popularity; but there is a general feeling that he is not in politics, although great pressure has been brought to bear on him since his return.

Otherwise it looks as if the two tickets of 1900 would be headed the same as four years ago. Vice President Hobart is not as well as his friends would wish and there have been many reports as to the nature and seriousness of the illness which have been met by the official announcement that he merely needs rest from overwork, and that he will both reside in the Senate this winter and be a candidate for the position again. If this prove true, the Republican nominations can hardly fail being the same. Whether General Sewall of Maine who ran with Mr. Bryan is again desirous of the nomination is unknown. He is a ship builder with large business interests and probably in his present time of prosperity is not thinking much of political advancement.

The most exciting campaign in a political sense is that being waged in the home state of



CANDIDATE JOHN E. MCLEAN.



U. S. BATTLESHIP "KEARSARGE".

perience and a leader in his party. He owns the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and with its influence and his great wealth has been a political power in Ohio for a number of years.

Aside from the Ohio campaign there are a number of minor contests going on in various States, none of which may be said to be of a national character although the probable issues of the next year appear in all. The nearest approach to it is the State contest in Nebraska, which only assumes magnified proportions from the fact that Col. Bryan has been on the stump himself and his daily speeches to large crowds are supposed to show the line of the next campaign. The general tone is anti-imperialism and anti-trusts. It is a singular thing but a National Campaign is seldom fought on the lines laid down a year ahead. Either the conditions change or some accident projects an unthought-of issue into the arena, and what was to have been the main question is entirely lost sight of. When Gen. Hancock was a nominee through a natural utterance on the tariff, the entire fight shifted from his war record to that issue in a week. So, too, only in 1896 the entire preliminary skirmishes had been based on tariff, which was entirely lost sight of by the unexpected appearance of the "16 to 1" silver question.

By this and many other instances it will be seen that the change of the Philippine situation which may take place any time might take away every ground that now exists for making that the one question of the campaign. What is true of that is also true of commercial questions; so, at present, it can hardly be said that

25c. SAMPLE BOTTLE 10c. FOR NEXT 30 DAYS.

No DISEASE has so baffled the medical skill of all ages as RHEUMATISM.

and no remedy has ever been known to cure it until "5 Drops,"



[TRADE MARK.]

the Rheumatic Cure demonstrated its wonderful curative power.

It has never failed to cure RHEUMATISM in any form, Acute or Chronic.

Here is what a Prominent Physician has to say who has had 35 years of active Practice of Medicine.

I have never before in my 35 years of practice of medicine given my testimonial or recommendation to any patent medicine, but there is a remedy, the result of which has come under my own observation; for there is no Disease which has so baffled the medical skill of all ages as Rheumatism and to find a Reliable remedy for the same. At last we have found it in "5 Drops," manufactured by the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Company, Chicago, Ill.

The "5 Drops" has proven itself wonderful for its curative power in Rheumatism, not as a Temporary Reliever only, but to give a Permanent Cure even in chronic cases. Sometime ago, I had among others several Rheumatic cases, under my treatment and prescribed for these patients the very best Remedies which I skillfully selected, but without desirable results. I then heard of "5 Drops" and of its Wonderful Cures, and prescribed it to a few patients who found relief from its use within a few days. After that I prescribed it to a great number and to my surprise, I will say that in the course of Two or Three Weeks after they had used "5 Drops" and "5 Drop" Plasters they were Cured.

Among these were a few who had, for a number of years, been suffering with Chronic Rheumatism, who had piloted themselves around on Crutches. They came to my office without Crutches and told me they were perfectly Well. They give all the credit to "5 Drops" and to "5 Drop" Plasters and this is their testimony to the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Company for their kindness and for the conscientious way in which they are placing these Wonderful Remedies among suffering humanity, which they told me to write to the Company as an acknowledgment.

As I have seen the Curative Power of "5 Drops" and "5 Drop" Plasters, in a great many instances, I can Truly recommend them and also that the firm is perfectly honest and reliable to deal with. C. A. Jackson, Physician and Surgeon, Kearney, Neb., Aug., 29, 1899.

How Long Have You Suffered With RHEUMATISM?

How Long Have You Read About "5 Drops" Without Taking Them?

Do you not think you have wasted precious time and suffered enough? If so, then try the "5 drops" and be promptly and permanently cured of your afflictions. "5 Drops" is a speedy and Sure Cure for Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Lumbago (lame back), Kidney Diseases, Asthma, Hay-Fever, Dyspepsia, Catarrh of all kinds, Bronchitis, La Grippe, Headache, Nervous or Neuralgic, Heart Weakness, Dropsy, Earache, Spasmodic and Catarrhal Croup, Toothache, Nervousness, Sleeplessness, Creeping Numbness, Malaria, and kindred diseases. "5 Drops" has cured more people during the past four years, of the above named diseases than all other remedies known, and in case of Rheumatism is curing more than all the doctors, patent medicines, electric belts and batteries combined, for they cannot cure Chronic Rheumatism. Therefore, waste no more valuable time and money longer, but try "5 Drops" and be promptly CURED. "5 Drops" is not only the best medicine, but it is the cheapest, for a \$1.00 bottle contains 300 doses. Price per bottle \$1.00, prepaid by mail or express, or 6 bottles for \$5.00. For the next 30 days we will send a 25c. sample FREE to any one sending 10 cents to pay for the mailing. Agents wanted. Write to-day.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE CO., 160-164 E. Lake St., Chicago.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

President McKinley, Ohio. Here are three candidates, all doing effective work. The one who is being most considered is John McLean, the democratic candidate for Governor. The consequences of his election are appreciated on both sides as it is claimed his election would be looked on as a public disapproval of the administration's course in the Philippines and prove an opening gun in the next campaign. On the other hand it is believed that his election also means that he would be a most formidable rival for Col. Bryan for the democratic nomination for the presidency, while his defeat would insure a solid Bryan delegation from Ohio in the convention. Mr. McLean is a young man of much political ex-

perience and a leader in his party. He owns the *Cincinnati Enquirer* and with its influence and his great wealth has been a political power in Ohio for a number of years.

Aside from the Ohio campaign there are a number of minor contests going on in various States, none of which may be said to be of a national character although the probable issues of the next year appear in all. The nearest approach to it is the State contest in Nebraska, which only assumes magnified proportions from the fact that Col. Bryan has been on the stump himself and his daily speeches to large crowds are supposed to show the line of the next campaign. The general tone is anti-imperialism and anti-trusts. It is a singular thing but a National Campaign is seldom fought on the lines laid down a year ahead. Either the conditions change or some accident projects an unthought-of issue into the arena, and what was to have been the main question is entirely lost sight of. When Gen. Hancock was a nominee through a natural utterance on the tariff, the entire fight shifted from his war record to that issue in a week. So, too, only in 1896 the entire preliminary skirmishes had been based on tariff, which was entirely lost sight of by the unexpected appearance of the "16 to 1" silver question.

By this and many other instances it will be seen that the change of the Philippine situation which may take place any time might take away every ground that now exists for making that the one question of the campaign. What is true of that is also true of commercial questions; so, at present, it can hardly be said that

definite lines of party division are as yet laid down.

The condition in the Philippines is about the same. The rainy season has about ceased and small expeditions are now being sent out from Manila occasionally, evidently with the intention of breaking up camps of insurgents. There are no organized battles fought but the columns of troops after a little skirmishing drive the insurgents and apparently break up their camps. Extended campaigns are not as yet practicable but the government is rapidly pushing forward reinforcements and supplies. There seems to be no doubt that it is intended to crush the forces of Aguinaldo before spring. Rumors of all kinds circulate in our press so that it is hard to determine the exact condition of matters in those islands. This is particularly true from the fact that almost everything under the present condition is tinged with politics. It would be much better to subdue the enemy first, then talk afterwards. The fact that Aguinaldo has released American prisoners and evidently desires recognition by this or some other government does not give the appearance that he is over-confident of a successful result for his cause. It is doubtful if his army would be in existence were it not buoyed up with the belief that American support and sympathy is rapidly growing for them, a report that is systematically encouraged and causes them to persevere in this rebellion.

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has a crimped rim which holds both crusts firmly together and prevents the rich juices from escaping. It is so constructed that the crust will always bake crisp and brown. Sample sent on receipt of retail price, 25c. We are the largest manufacturers of Pure Aluminum, Scotch Granite and Tin Ware in the world. AGENTS, write how to get this and four of our other best selling household novelties. —Outfit worth \$2.00—FREE. All goods guaranteed to give satisfaction. Address Dept. X, HOUSEHOLD NOVELTY WORKS, 25 Randolph St., Chicago, Ill. This Co. is worth a Million Dollars and is reliable.—Editor.

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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Rear Admiral Farquhar who relieved Rear Admiral Sampson of the command of the home squadron in October was the hero of the navy ten years ago. The men who have won fame through the war with Spain have held the attention of the public but Farquhar proved himself of the stuff from which heroes are made. It was he who commanded the flagship Frenton when the great storm in the Samoan harbor of Apia, wrecked six vessels and drowned one hundred and forty officers and men. The Frenton dragged her anchors and was drifting on the rocky shore when Admiral Farquhar ordered the entire crew into the rigging. The human sail kept the boat in position. Two American ships were drifting helplessly in the grasp of the hurricane when Farquhar ordered the flagship's band on deck and cheered the hearts of the Americans by the strains of the "Star Spangled Banner" that rose above the roar and crash of the awful storm. Again he led the Frenton's men when they cheered the British ship Calliope as it fought its way to the open sea. The Frenton was wrecked but the entire crew were saved and the brave commander was raised to the rank of Commodore and given the important part of the command of the Bureau of Yards and Docks. Admiral Farquhar was born in Pennsylvania and is now fifty-nine years of age. His first active service was on the African coast in an attempt to suppress the slave trade. While only a midshipman he captured a slaver. He served with credit during the Civil War and until 1871 was constantly at sea. He has had two assignments at the Naval Academy. He has been successively Commandant of the League Island Navy Yard at Philadelphia and the Norfolk Navy Yard. He asked for sea duty during the Spanish War but was detailed to remain in command at Norfolk where he fitted out the revenue cutters and other vessels. The daring and address that he showed during the awful scenes of the Samoan hurricane show one side of his character and the mastery of detail and executive ability displayed in the technical work of the Navy show another. Altogether, the North Atlantic Squadron can be proud of the personality and record of its commanding officer.

We have many miniature painters but Miss Laura Hills ranks among the best in America. What is most surprising is the fact that Miss Hills is almost self taught. She has had a few months' instruction in the Art Student's League of New York and in the Cowles Art School of Boston. Miss Hills was born in the quaint old town of Newburyport, Massachusetts, and still spends much of her time there although her winters are spent in Boston. Her first work was as an illustrator and many of her early drawings appeared in Saint Nicholas. She took up the study of pastel and it was from a sale of some of her work in this line that she was able to study in New York. Her success in the field of miniature painting was immediate. During the last five years she has painted the miniatures of many prominent society people and has won unstinted praise from the critics. Two years ago she was elected a member of the society of American Artists. Few women attain to this honor and Miss Hills is the first miniature painter ever chosen into this society. She is very near sighted but this seems to have helped instead of hindered her miniature work. Her tiny bits of ivory are perfect in detail and yet the sense of broad lines and face treatment is never lost. Miss Hills' studio on Boylston street in Boston is a study in green and gold and there she greets and entertains the friends that her charming personality and her work have brought her. She is very resourceful and has a talent for organization. It was she who planned and directed the "Pageant of the Year" a very successful spectacular production given in 1892. Her work is always prominent at all exhibitions of miniature painting.

Stephen Crane is one of the younger school

of realistic semi-literary journalists. He came into public notice with a rocket-like brilliancy. His first book "The Black Riders" was verse and verse of a rather startling kind. The editor of the Bookman brought young Crane into notice by means of a very flattering review. He called him an original and powerful writer of eccentric verse—"one who stimulates thought because he himself thinks." His next book The Red Badge of Courage is said to be the most striking picture of the bare revolting facts of war ever written. At the time it was penned, Crane had never seen a battle. He says that he gained his knowledge from the sense of the rage of conflict given in the football fields. During the Spanish war Mr. Crane received an enormous salary as special correspondent of a New York city daily. Mr. Crane is a college man, having received his training at Lafayette College and Syracuse University. He has recently spent much time in England. His last book is called "War is Kind."

The Princess Adolphe de Wrede is a talented and beautiful woman who is seeking success as a concert singer. She has had a rather tragic life and has just finished a struggle in the courts for the legality of her title of princess. The princess is a Hungarian by birth and in early life was the wife of a Hungarian physician—Dr. Dobrzenski. They went to live in Russia and the marriage was annulled in that country. In 1891 in Paris, the lady married the Prince de Wrede. The Prince afterwards met a wealthy South American widow and succeeded in getting a Bavarian court to declare his first marriage illegal. Upon this he married the rich widow and the Princess de Wrede has since been fighting the matter in the French courts. She came to this country and sang at the French and German embassies in Washington. She has been taken up by the ultra fashionable set at Newport where she has been singing during the last summer. Her voice is remarkable for its range and sweetness. She sings in six languages; English, French, German, Italian, Russian and Hungarian. She was a pupil of Tosti. Her Hungarian folk songs have caught the popular fancy. The Princess wears most beautiful gowns and was especially admired in a rose satin empire gown. Her diamonds are very fine and altogether it is hard to realize that a woman of title with all the appearance of great wealth is really trying to make her way on the professional stage. The Princess has however the qualities that win popular approval and her pluck and her talent will win even without the interest that her romantic story and her society following will excite.



William K. Vanderbilt is a name known all over the world as a King of Millions, but of William K. Vanderbilt the man but little is known outside the circle of his intimate friends. Comparatively few people recognize him on the streets of New York. He has the reputation of being exclusive and taciturn but those who know him well always speak of kindness of heart as one of his prominent characteristics. "Willie K." as he is often called is a grandson of the famous commodore who founded the great Vanderbilt fortune. He was educated at an academy in Geneva, Switzerland, but returned home at the age of nineteen to a clerkship in the treasurer's office of the New York Central railroad. He was shown no favors but was told that promotion depended solely on his merit. He demonstrated enough business ability to procure his transfer into the traffic department where he became acquainted with methods and detail of this line of railroading. He has never shown in his business career a fondness for detail and aside from his first experiences as a clerk leaves all this part of the work to subordinates. He has developed a great executive faculty and an ability for bold combinations and for seeing schemes that has

revolutionized the Vanderbilt system and promises to extend it across the continent. During his apprenticeship as a clerk he was made director in several of the Vanderbilt lines. His fellow clerks remember him as quiet and unobtrusive, not unfriendly but little disposed to talk. He has always been rather a silent man. With his brother Cornelius he took his little turn in Wall street. His father had warned him to keep out of speculation but experience had to teach him and the experience cost his father many millions. It was said that "Willie K." was then put on an allowance of \$50,000 a month—enough to live on but not enough for speculation. W. K. Vanderbilt has had charge of the western system of the Vanderbilt lines. He selects his men carefully but expects from each president of a line definite results. The men and measures needed to obtain these results are left entirely to the head of that line. Business men who know W. K. Vanderbilt best declare that his resourceful mind, force and energy would have made a fortune had he been a poor boy. As it was, he inherited over \$70,000,000 and the fortune has grown in his hands. He is a man who enjoys the pleasures of life in a natural way. He is not yet fifty years of age, is fond of society, fond of yachting, of horses and of the country. He is known as a judge and patron of art and has one of the finest private collections of paintings in America. He is familiar with current literature and finds time to read even in the social and business rush. He had a large collection of rare books destroyed when his country home at Idlewild was burned this spring. It is said that from forty to fifty begging letters reach Mr. Vanderbilt every day but his secretary disposes of them. It is not easy to gain a personal interview with him but if one is had his courtesy and attention are fully given. Mr. Vanderbilt takes frequent trips abroad on his own yachts—the last one being on the Valiant. Mr. Vanderbilt's Fifth Avenue home is a copy of the wing of a famous French chateau. He is about to commence the rebuilding of Idlewild on a much more extensive scale. His son William K. Vanderbilt Jr. has recently married the great California heiress—Virginia Fair, while his daughter Consuelo is the beautiful young Duchess of Marlborough. Mr. Vanderbilt retained a dignified silence and gained the sympathy of the public through the trying publicity of his wife's divorce and marriage to O. H. P. Belmont. He has the respect of all who are associated with him in a business way and the love and admiration of the few who come near to the man and can see him rather than his millions.

Turkey's Consul General to America would pass for an American although he could speak no English less than twenty-one months ago. Mundji Bey is about thirty years of age, short of stature and with dark hair and eyes. He has a very plain little office in State street, New York. He shows a most loyal devotion to the Sultan or Sooltan as all natives pronounce the word. The Turks train their young men for the diplomatic service. Mundji Bey studied for five years in the Turkish Government's High School of Diplomacy at Constantinople and the diploma of that institution hangs on the cedar partition that divides his 10 by 12 office. His father was a Turkish Governor General so that Mundji Bey was born in the official circle. His diploma fitted him to be appointed as a Consul General Secretary of an Embassy or Chief of some department. He has been twelve years on the Sultan's service and a Consul for six years. He was in Greece when hostilities broke out between that country and Turkey and he was forced to return to Constantinople. Mundji Bey is very "up-to-date" in his appreciation of the possibilities of the diplomatic service. Literary diplomats are very popular and the Turkish Consul General can claim a place in this intellectual aristocracy of the political circles. He is the author of a number of novels in the Turkish language among them being "The Bitterness of Life," "The Run to Death" and "The Pink Handkerchief." The last book is founded upon some romantic incidents in his own life. He has also been a constant contributor to Turkish papers. His commission from the Sultan hangs on the wall of his office. The Sultan's signature appears at the top but to the uninitiated it appears to be a strange and weird hieroglyphic. Mundji Bey speaks four languages and is ready to converse

of Turkish customs and manners in any of them. The moment any topic having a political bearing is introduced he shows all the diplomacy of the Orient and refuses to enter into any discussion. He is very observant and very shrewd and studies the political life of this country very closely. Altogether he is an interesting type of the modern Turk.

IT CAN'T BE DONE.

No One Can Remain Well, No Chronic Disease Can be Cured Unless the Stomach is First Made Strong and Vigorous.

This is plain because every organ in the body depends on the stomach for its nourishment. Nerve, bone, sinew, blood are made from the food which the stomach converts to our use.

How useless to treat disease with this, that and the other remedy and neglect the most important of all, the stomach.

The earliest symptoms of indigestion are sour risings, bad taste in the mouth, gas in stomach and bowels, palpitation, all gone feeling, faintness, headaches, constipation; later comes loss of flesh, consumption, liver and heart troubles, kidney diseases, nervous prostration, all of which are the indirect result of poor nutrition.

Any person suffering from indigestion should make it a practice to take after each meal one of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets, allowing it to dissolve in the mouth and thus mingle with the saliva and enter the stomach in the most natural way. These Tablets are highly recommended by Dr. Jennison because they are composed of the natural digestive acids and fruit essences which assist the stomach in digesting all wholesome food before it has time to ferment and sour.

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets are sold by druggists, full sized packages at 50 cents. They are also excellent for invalids and children. A book on stomach diseases and thousands of testimonials of genuine cures sent free by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich.

FUR SCARF Baltic Seal \$2.25

with Two Heads and Six Bear Tails. (Regular value \$5.00). Send \$2.25 and get Scarf promptly.

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\$10.00 TO \$30.00 and expenses can be made **EVERY DAY** with our **NEW IMPROVED GRAPHIC** **PICTORIAL TALKING MACHINE.** PRICE **REDUCED TO \$5.00.** You Can Make Big Money with our exhibition outfit. We furnish Talking Machine, Advertising Posters, Admission Tickets, and Book of Instructions, telling you how to conduct the business, how to make \$10.00 to \$30.00 every day. **YOU CAN EXAMINE THE OUTFIT** before paying for it. For full particulars cut this notice out and mail to us. Address **SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO., (Inc.), Chicago, Ill.**



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

If any one had believed that the day of the bicycle was over and that interest in wheeling is on the decline, attendance on the twentieth annual meeting of the League of American Wheelmen at Boston last August would have speedily convinced him to the contrary. It was estimated that over 20,000 wheelmen and women were in the thickest of it. Wheels were everywhere in evidence and the bicycle was king. The affair easily out-rivaled all previous occasions and the old, experienced wheelman who has attended these meets before met with hundreds, not to say thousands of familiar faces and exchanged the "glad hand" with as many more.

The first annual meeting of the L. A. W. was held in New York twenty years ago. The second was held in Boston at which time there was a membership of 1854 and an attendance of 750. Now the membership is considerably over 50,000. The third meeting was held in New York in '81 and the third in Chicago in '82 at which a new code of bylaws was adopted, providing for the election of a chief consul and representative based upon membership for all states in the Union. In '83 the League met in New York and paraded in Central Park when it adopted an official organ which has been continued ever since. The membership was then reported as 4250. The sixth annual meet was held in New York; seventh in Boston; eighth at St. Louis; ninth at Baltimore; 10th at Hagerstown; 11th at Niagara Falls; 12th at Detroit; 13th at Washington; 14th at Chicago; 15th at Denver; 16th at Asbury Park; 17th at Louisville; 18th at Philadelphia; 19th at Indianapolis, and the 20th was that in Boston last August.

In 1886 the League met its first opposition from the racing men and the racing board revolted and formed an association known as the American Cyclist's Union. This organization attempted to control the fall tournaments and to rule rather arbitrarily; but it only lived about a year and was followed by another association which struggled along for a couple of years or so and then died a natural death. The National Cyclist's Association has been its only successful opponent.

The history of the racing and the mile record in this country would make a thick book. Back in 1878, when H. M. Pope made a mile in 3m. 53s. his record was thought to be nothing short of marvelous; just as they used to think a trotting horse that could go at a "2.40" rate beat everything ever heard of; but the bicycle record, like the trotter's, has been steadily lowered. Several men have distinguished

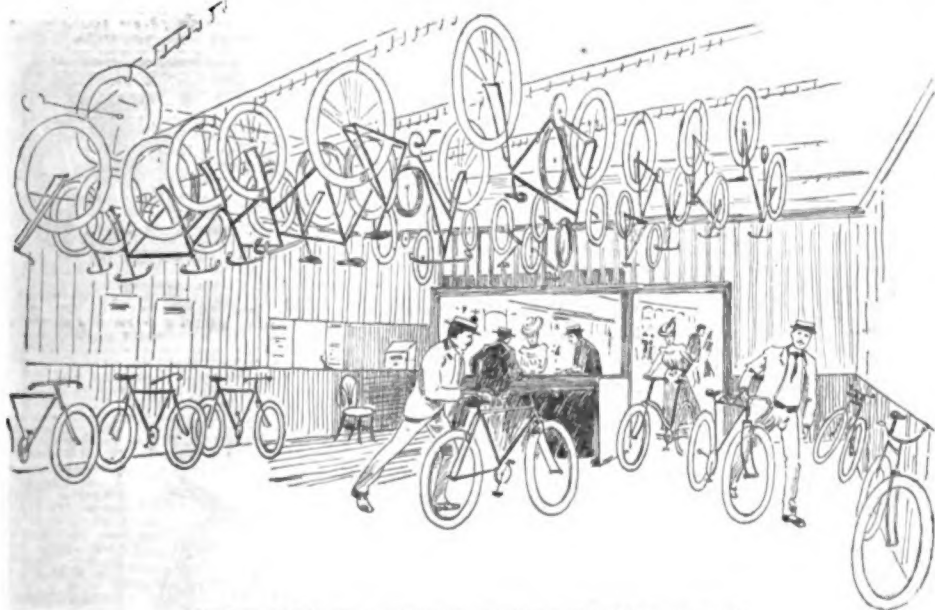
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Dec. 12, 1893 11 51
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July 29, 1899 11 28
Aug. 1, 1899 11 22 2-5

*Standing start. †Flying start. ‡Rejected.
§Record not as yet accepted by national racing board.

This record shows the mile paced over which more money and energy have been spent than on any known record. And its growth marks the wonderful strides that have been made toward the perfection of the wheel and the equipment of tracks and pace-making machines, and recently of motor propulsion as well. But the record does not begin to tell the story; there is a volume behind it of the training and record-breaking camps, of hundreds of men employed, of specially constructive machines, of the wonderful care taken of the principal performer and his machine, of the large sums of money invested by manufacturers for advertising purposes, of the joy at triumph and the heart-breaking disappointments which follow upon success or defeat; and of a thousand and one minor details that cannot even be hinted at here.

The L. A. W. has now become one of the most powerful organizations in the country and the time has arrived when even politicians recognize it. Next year being presidential year, the League intends to push various schemes in the legislatures for the coming winter that will act in the interests of wheelmen. They will ask the legislators of different parties to place themselves on record as for or against wheelmen just previous to the great political struggle. They will get bills introduced to Congress which will include those intended to improve the highways, to force railroads to carry wheels as baggage in



CYCLE ROOM AT A BOSTON, MASS., RAILROAD STATION.

themselves but the honors of late years seem to be about easy between Major Taylor and McDuffee, that is taking an average of a number of years in succession. From 3m. 53s. the record has been brought down to one minute and twenty-two and two-fifths seconds. Doubtless another year it will be reduced still farther; although it does not now seem possible. The improvements in machines has of course largely to be credited with the lowering of the record. Following is the tabulated list of the record from the beginning, which I am sure my readers will be glad to see and those interested in the racing question will like to preserve:

Rider.	Date.	Time.	m. s.
H. M. Pope	July 4, 1878	3 53	
W. R. Pitman	July 4, 1878	3 45	
G. R. Agassiz	Oct. 19, 1878	3 21 1-2	
I. Keith-Falconer	1878	3 22 2-5	
R. Edlin	1878	2 46 1-2	
Sanders Sellers	Sept. 9, 1881	2 39	
R. Howell	Sept. 29, 1885	2 31 2-5	
W. A. Rowe	1886	2 29 4-5	
R. J. Mocreedy	1890	2 26 4-5	
W. C. Jones	1890	2 20 3-5	
F. J. Osmond	July 13, 1891	2 15	
W. W. Windle	Oct. 7, 1891	2 15	
George F. Taylor	July 4, 1892	2 14	
George F. Taylor	Aug. 3, 1892	2 11	
A. A. Zimmerman	Sept. 9, 1892	12 08 4-5	
George F. Taylor	Sept. 9, 1892	12 08 1-5	
A. A. Zimmerman	Sept. 9, 1892	12 06 4-5	
H. C. Tyler	Sept. 15, 1892	12 06 4-5	
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 21, 1892	12 04 3-5	
J. S. Johnson	Sept. 22, 1892	11 56 4-5	
W. W. Windle	Oct. 7, 1892	12 02 3-5	
W. W. Windle	Oct. 8, 1892	12 05 3-5	
W. W. Windle	Oct. 3, 1893	11 58 1-5	
W. W. Windle	Oct. 13, 1893	11 56 4-5	
J. S. Johnson	Nov. 8, 1893	11 55 3-5	

states which have not already conceded this point, and to make ordinances in each state uniform. As it is usually necessary to make a hard fight before the League can secure the passage of any bills, they are prepared this season to be unusually energetic as politicians will be more than ever willing to make concessions. It is expected that this campaign will not only be carried on in the different state legislatures but will also be pushed up to Congress as there are many ways in which that body can assist wheelmen. The L. A. W. is and has been for several months, preparing a vigorous campaign with their details all systematically arranged. And it is more than probable that they will have won signal victories and gained several important concessions before another summer comes.

The importance of good roads is something that interests more than wheelmen. Property owners everywhere are affected by it perhaps more than you think. As an example of the increased valuation of property caused by the improvement of roads, it is stated on good authority that in one year property in New Jersey county advanced nearly one million dollars. In the United States there are over a million miles of highway and the saving of a few cents per mile in the cost of hauling produce to and from railway stations would, it is said, aggregate a sum sufficient for the construction of all the roads now needed east of the Mississippi river. This seems like a large statement but it is given by officials who know their business.

It is estimated that to-day there is an annual output of over 500,000 bicycles and that there are over a million wheels in common use in the United States. The bicycle manufacture has

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and thinner until
you get
down in
bed



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No matter how deep-seated the ailment, Dr. Slocum can cure it.

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In a word, it strengthens and builds up, making men, women and children stout and healthy, when all other means have failed.

Now that the raw winds of fall and winter are at hand, Dr. Slocum proposes to further demonstrate his wonderful triumph by sending to every suffering reader of COMFORT a Full Free Course of the Four Preparations comprising the treatment.

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Write Dr. T. A. Slocum, 98 Pine Street, New York, where his great laboratories and correspondence consulting offices are located.

When in doubt as to your disease, or in need of advice, write the Doctor freely, and you will be told what to do.

EDITOR'S NOTE.—The Slocum Treatment is medicine reduced to an exact science, and this is an honest, straightforward offer made by the world's most famous physician. All readers of COMFORT anxious regarding the health of themselves, children, relatives or friends, can have Four Free Preparations, with complete directions for use in any case, by sending full address to Dr. Slocum's Laboratory, New York City. When writing the Doctor please say you saw this article in COMFORT.

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SKILLED SUIT TAILORS will make the sack style to fit perfectly, line it with fine heavy Farmer's satin and sew it with pure silk and linen thread, guaranteed far better in quality, style and looks than others best \$10 suit.

SEND NO MONEY. We send this suit and we'll send Free a sample of this beautiful Cheviot and our big book of cloth samples of other suits from \$6.95 up and overcoats from \$5.95 up, or send us your Height, Weight, Chest, Waist and Crotch measure with \$1.00 deposit and we'll express the suit to you C.O.D., subject to examination; examine it carefully, try it on, see that it fits perfectly, then pay the express agent the balance (\$4.95) and expressage, only after you find it exactly as represented, a perfect fit and far better than others best \$10.00 suits. Send today quick for suit or free sample book.

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Please mention COMFORT when you write.

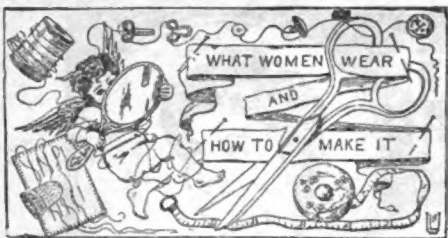
THE PIN OF THE PERIOD.
DEWEY SWORD STICK PIN.

Now that Dewey has returned every man, woman and child in the country will want to wear one of these beautiful gift emblems. The elegant sword voted by Congress to be presented to Admiral Dewey was presented to the hero of Manila by President McKinley early in October. This beautiful gift emblematic stick pin sword is very strongly made, the blade has a sharp point and as the sword is warranted never to tarnish, it makes the most appropriate and useful souvenir of the season. Each sword comes mounted on Red, White and Blue cards three inches square and are selling by the thousand. Men wear them for neck tie pins, women wear them for dress, scarf and shirt waist pins, children wear them for all pin purposes and they will not tarnish so are the most popular and useful "Pin of the Period." These sword pins sell for 25c. each, but knowing all patriotic people would want them a large lot were ordered, so we will give one free with a subscription.

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WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



LAVISH as was the display of splendid stuff last year, this season's outpouring seems to surpass anything ever yet attempted. Fancy fur combined with lace as a trimming, the fur applied on the lace or batiste, as is often the case, the pattern of more or less coarse design so as to give full sway to the fur ornamentation. One gorgeous piece of this trimming had the fur studded with jewels—turquoises being the stones chosen. Persian lamb applied on ecru lace, encrusted with pearls and coral makes a most effective decoration used on a gown of the new mode tint. The favored shade for dressy gowns for the coming season is biscuit in its various tones ranging from creamy tan to a pinkish dust color. Green, a shade quite brilliant and bordering on the emerald is also much in vogue and likely to find favor.

From Paris comes the cry, "down with habit backs," which means that the graceful skirt with no fullness at the back has had its day and, sorry as we are, we can but abide by it. Box pleats are given up instead. Pleats graduating from an inch in width to considerable of a flare at the foot. Sometimes one single pleat is all that is used, more often the pleat is doubled, however. Still the close sheath effect is guarded and one must look slim as a rail down to the knees where considerable flare is required. A novelty in skirts has its entire front breadth laid in tiny perpendicular tucks flying out loosely at the foot, the sides and back arranged in graduated box-pleats, each pleat stitched in pointed fashion from the belt to some distance below the hips.

For indoor wear the spencer waist is superseding the shirt waist, and is universally becoming alike to stout and slender figures. A dainty waist of this order is made up of pink and white striped taffeta, the stripes of equal width and so arranged in tucks at the yoke as to make the effect entirely white. It has a smart finish at the throat and belt of plain pink taffeta hemmed and brought into perky little bows at the front. Those neat little bits of linen hemstitched on the edges, worn over the ribbon at the neck are added to the smartest of gowns in a most taking way.

A clever girl of my acquaintance has an old-fashioned skirt of black taffeta flounced from the foot to the belt; of course this is terribly out of date, so to render it useful for dressy wear this winter she has ripped off all the flounces except those directly at the foot, and with four yards of new taffeta has fashioned an overdress, slightly pointed at the front and back, the edge set off by several rows of baby velvet ribbon, and a row of two-inch silk fringe. By the way; fringe is the accepted decoration of the season and is used on all manner of gowns to such an extent that it is likely to become common and vulgar; but until it does it will be hailed as something new and decidedly fetching.

An exquisite idea for a bodice to wear at evening functions, is made after the spencer model, composed of alternate rows of inch wide velvet ribbon and lace of half the width, the yellow tint preferred. The one I have in mind is pale blue with yellow lace insertion



A JAUNTY JACKET.

worn over a slip of creamy-white satin, the throat and belt are finished by ribbons of the blue brought into dainty knots at the front. Gracefully hanging skirts of pale gray velvet or tan cloth are to take the place of

the ubiquitous black skirt which has bored us for so many seasons.

Among the smartest hats shown is one of mouse gray felt in the sombrero shape, having a low round crown twisted about with two shades of gray velvet lined with satin of the same shade. These are knotted on the left side and through the knots are stuck two tiny golf clubs. Scarfs of silk of black or colors finished with a silk fringe on the edge are considered the correct adjunct to the up-to-date headgear. A smart hat of this style is in the popular "Rounder" shape in soft black felt, the low, indented crown encircled by the silk sash, the ends drooping low over the hair at the back, while a knot of the silk at the side holds a bunch of cocques jauntily in place.

Imported hats show a lavish use of strings and tulle scarfs which are vastly becoming, and yet fail to catch the fancy of our women who consider that they add to one's age however becoming they may be. Toques are more heavy and cumbersome than ever before it would seem, though they are wonderfully becoming and are usually heavy with birds or plumage of some sort.

Outre indeed are the long quills so many hats are displaying, some of them almost a half a yard in length, and give the wearer a somewhat grotesque look. Still they are stylish, and, of course, that is the only result many women aim for.

Poke bonnets are seen occasionally and are wonderfully becoming to a round, youthful face, filled in, as they are, underneath the brim, with softest linings of tulle, or chiffon of a becoming color. A dainty one in black velvet, the outside heavy with rich black plumes, has its brim faced with rose pink mirror velvet on which are set rows of shirred chiffon so arranged as to look like tiny roses; the ties are of black faced with pink.

A pretty little frock for a child's dancing party is shown here, made up in white Japanese silk, with yoke and sleeves of white lace over silk. The soft silk sash encircling the waist may be of any color desired, or the entire effect may be kept white.

A smart wrap to be worn at afternoon or evening functions when one wishes to be especially well-dressed is given in the sketch—the snug little coat body is made up in a russet shade of velvet, very deep and warm in tone, the flaring collar is faced with the same, while the broad revers are faced with deep ecru lace over white satin—the material used in the outside of cape is a shade of biscuit-colored broadcloth, set off by rows of black chenille at the edge, and finished by a deep black silk fringe. The jaunty little jacket displays the new rolling collar now so much in evidence which may be of fur, or faced with velvet.

A smart house-gown of white wool, very soft and fine, has the quaint open fronted skirt showing the flounced petticoat of white taffeta, the upper part of the opening caught together by lacings of rose colored velvet.

MEXICAN BURDEN BEARERS.

TO the casual observer it would seem that all the burdens of Mexico are borne by the women and donkeys. Should you happen to be in the City of Mexico on Sunday, the principal market day of the poorer people, take your stand anywhere between the Plaza and San Juan market, and note the loads the women carry. Bales and a baby; boxes and a baby; bags and a baby, in fact everything that is being brought to the market, the inevitable baby being secured in the folds of the mother's rebozo, (scarf) and riding astride her hips.

Note the family groups. Here is one that is typical of the Mexican Indian; in front comes the wife and mother, moving in the queer dogtrot that all American Indian women have, and almost hidden from view beneath a heavy load of garden truck she is bringing from the distant Chinampas. Behind her trudge two or three

No Money Required.



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children, and bringing up the rear comes that lord of creation, the husband, astride the family donkey, serenely smoking his cigarette, and probably wondering why his wife moves so slowly.

But the men do their share of the burden bearing; all the material for building houses is carried up to place on their heads, backs, or shoulders, they seeming to be unable to learn that any other way is possible. When the railroads were being constructed, the Mexican laborer knew of no better way to move earth than to fill his leather apron, two corners tied securely to his waist, the others held in his hands, and to then walk to where the dirt was to be carried.

The contractors introduced the wheelbarrow, but what do you think. Four men would take a barrow, and having loaded it, would lift it to the head of one of the party, who would carry it thus to the dumping place.

HE water lily is said to be used in some parts of India for food. In Lake Cashmere there is a specie the fruit of which is rich in starch and has much the flavor of a chestnut. The nuts will keep for a long time when dried, and when ground they may be made into cakes or may be soaked and then boiled for some hours.

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One hundred and twenty-five Favorite Song Jewels. A large book of music containing words and score of the latest popular songs sung in the theaters and churches everywhere. Comic, Sentimental, Pathetic and Religious. This great collection would cost from \$15 to \$20 in the usual sheet music form. The best collection for home and concert use ever published. We will give the book as a FREE present to any person sending us six cents in stamps for a trial three months' subscription to our sparkling, monthly paper which we are introducing into 100,000 new homes this season.

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Tailor Made Suit \$5.98
THE SUIT is made by Expert Men Tailors from Ford's Best All-Wool Fast Color Ladies' Cloth famous for its rich, soft bloom and beautiful appearance. The jacket is made in latest single breasted style, superbly trimmed with fine satin bands, fully lined with silk faced and elegantly lined with real French silk. The skirt is lined and interlined, has nobly welted seams, new style back, cut full width and hangs graceful and stylish. Guaranteed strictly tailor made and worth fully \$10.00. Choice of black or blue colors. **SEND NO MONEY** but send this adv. and we'll send Free a large sample of the cloth and our Big Catalog of other Suits, Jackets, Capes and Skirts, or send us \$1.00, with color desired, give bust and waist measure, length of skirt down front from skirt band to bottom and we'll express the suit to you C.O.D., subject to examination; when it arrives examine it carefully, try it on, see that it fits perfect, then pay the express agent the balance (\$4.98 and expressage). Send today quick for free sample and catalog or suit. **REFERENCES** The Royal Trust Co. Bank, Chicago, any Chicago wholesale house or any express company in America.

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Musical Instruments of all Kinds fine toned and of beautiful construction, workmanship and finish. Shipped direct from factory at wholesale prices C.O.D. with privilege of examination. We have the best for the least money. A sweet toned Mandolin, finely finished in mahogany and maple, 9 ribs, \$4.00, dealers ask \$7.00; high grade Guitar \$2.90, worth \$6.00; Stradivarius Model Violin, case and full outfit, \$3.15 equal to any sold at \$6.50; Banjos \$1.25 and up; Gramophones \$5 and up. **PIANOS AND ORGANS** sent on 30 days FREE TRIAL, A \$500 high grade Knottwood Piano \$155, A \$75 Organ \$32.50. Pianos as low \$120. Organs down to \$21.75. All instruments guaranteed. Send for large illustrated Catalogue FREE. Address, CASH BUYERS' UNION, 160 W. VanBuren St., B. S. Chicago.

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Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's own name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st.	For the best original letter	\$3.00
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3rd.	" " third " " "	2.00
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5th.	" " fifth " " "	1.00

Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new cousin into the *Comfort* circle; that is, they must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this prize offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

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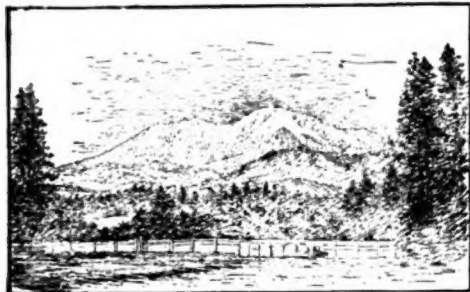
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Signora Crawford,	2.00
Mrs. F. A. Mitchell,	1.50
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DEAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Again has come around our yearly festive season of Thanksgiving, when all we good Americans "Tink ob our marcies," as the old colored woman expressed it. I hope we are none of us unmindful of the blessings that are strewn all along our way, but just now, when our harvests have been gathered in, and our winter supplies stored away, we have special reason for gratitude that "our wants are all supplied."

I feel particularly grateful to my nieces and nephews this month for so generously providing me with letters for my page. Our first letter was written last August, but as my August matter is sent in in June I think you will not object to reading it now.

"We have been making our first visit to the Pacific Coast this summer, and have seen a great many new and interesting things. I should like to tell you about them all, but that would take too long, so I am going to write only about our stay in this little village in northern California, nestled



MT. SHASTA.

at the foot of Mt. Shasta. The inn at which we are staying is right in the midst of beautiful, great pines and cedars, with charming views in all directions. But most beautiful of all is the sight of the great mountain rising 14,440 feet above the sea, its summit and sides covered with snow.

"Long ages ago Shasta was an active volcano, pouring out great flows of lava, of which the present great mountain is the result. The crevices between these masses of lava rock have been filled with vast quantities of fine volcanic ash, blown from the great crater after the flow of fiery lava had subsided. On this mountain can be found all the phenomena of high Alpine regions, real glaciers flowing down into the valleys, tiny, deep blue glacial lakes, and sulphur springs which bubble up out of the rocks near the edge of the old crater.

"The water from the melting snow does not run down over the surface of the mountain, as one might expect, but sinks into the volcanic rock, appearing again at the base in immense springs. One of these is the source of the great Sacramento river, and from another is taken the 'Shasta soda' which is famous all over the west.

"Few people who come to the inn, except strong men, attempt to climb to the top of the mountain. Most people content themselves with easier and shorter excursions. A party of us went one day to visit a large lumber mill on the Sacramento, a forest murderer, I call it, it seems so wicked to cut down all these magnificent trees. Between the lumbermen and the fires, the fine forests of the Pacific Coast are rapidly disappearing, though our Government is at last awake to the situation and is taking steps to preserve them. We can only hope that laws will be made and enforced before it is too late. I was glad to meet one man with immense lumber interests, who told me he was replanting his land as fast as the timber is cut.

"Another interesting visit which we made was to a fish hatchery near by, one of seven maintained by the State. At the time of our visit, the ponds and breeding tanks were filled with trout of many varieties. Brook trout from New England, Loch-leven trout from Scotland, brown trout from Germany, Dolly Varden and rainbow trout, were sporting about together in the beautiful, clear mountain water. These little ponds are very attractive to certain birds. Great blue herons and black and white king-fishers are almost always to be seen hovering about, waiting for a chance to dive down and bring up a fine speckled beauty.

"The men in charge of the hatchery have orders to shoot every fish-loving bird in sight, though the State laws for the protection of birds are generally very strictly enforced, especially in behalf of the blue heron, which is said to be the best scavenger in the country. Just after we left the spot we heard the report of a shotgun, and the next morning a pair of great, stately blue wings were

sent to us as a souvenir. Then we knew that one more blue heron had ceased its work, for good and ill, and that the heart of the keeper was glad."

MARY PIERSON,
Sisson, Siskiyou County, California.

Our second letter takes us to the other side of the United States, in the beautiful old State of Virginia.

"In an almost perfect climate, where the rigors of winter are softened by the warmth of the southern sun, and the heat of the summer is tempered by the cool breezes of the Chesapeake, more than four thousand of Uncle Sam's soldiers are waiting the setting of life's sun in the Home for disabled soldiers in Hampton, Virginia.

"It was in the summer of 1898 that we visited this Home in acceptance of an invitation from one of its inmates. It is indeed an ideal place for its purpose. The buildings overlook Hampton Road, where passes to and fro the traffic of the seas. The grounds are beautifully laid out, and carefully tended. The buildings are handsome, commodious, and models of convenience.

"One of the interesting features of the institution is the culinary department. In the kitchen we came upon an animated scene. Cooks in white caps and aprons were busy preparing dinner, and this is no small task. Seven barrels of potatoes,



HAMPTON SOLDIERS' HOME.

five of turnips or other vegetables, eight or ten barrels of flour, about two thousand pounds of meat, nearly a barrel of sugar, and quantities of other materials are used daily in preparing the meals for the veterans. Long rows of ranges contain the pans of meats and vegetables, and four copper boilers, each holding one hundred gallons, contain the coffee. We were told that eleven hundred and eighty-eight veterans are fed at one sitting.

"At a signal from the bugle the doors of the dining-room are thrown open, and from the front and sides enter this army of eaters. A second signal sends them, and then another army of waiters files in from the kitchen bearing the smoking and savory dishes. There are twenty or twenty-two tables with three waiters for each table.

"The veterans are not without amusement. Upon the grounds is a well-equipped theater, the donation of Mr. Horatio Ward of London, England, at which are frequent entertainments. The most of these are free. There are also billiard parlors, a shooting gallery, bowling alley, and other pastimes. There is also a free reading room.

"The hospital is one of the important adjuncts of the Home. It has a capacity of five hundred patients. The sanitation is perfect, and hygiene is a hobby with the hospital managers.

"As we were leaving the grounds there passed us a covered wagon. Marching beside it, three on either side, were six men in blue uniforms. Within the wagon was a pine box, with the Stars and Stripes thrown a cross it. The wagon was going to the boat landing and the box was addressed to a town in Maine. Another soldier had gone home.

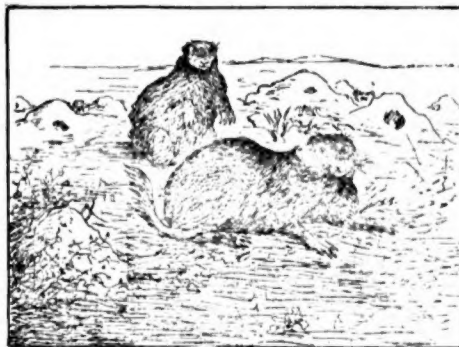
'After the battle, respite;
After their labor, rest;
A leisure hour in a shady bower,
Ere the sun sinks in the west.'

FRED'K LEHR NEWLAND, Lucinda, Pa.

Our next letter gives some facts about that curious little animal, the prairie dog, that are new to me, and perhaps will be to some of my readers.

"Having lived in the west nearly all my life I am well acquainted with the curious little animal known as the prairie dog. He is not much of a dog, but looks very much like a monstrous rat; his yelp has more squirrel than dog in it, and he behaves like a woodchuck; so that while we call this 'ancient builder of cities' west of the Missouri a dog it is well to remember that this bushy little tail would wag as well under several other names.

"By his pertness, shyness, and innocence he makes himself a pet with travelers, ranchmen, and others who do not need for their own use those parts of the great plains where he and his tribe have long been 'squatter sovereigns.' When, however, the farmer comes along, and wants to sow and reap where the dog has made himself a home, he becomes a pest. He stubbornly refuses to yield to the newer civilization; he and his neighbors are too numerous to kill, and they are so skillful at dropping into their sand pits when an enemy comes near that their army seldom loses a man. If the farmer attempts to plough a section of the prairie where they burrow the chances are that his horses will break their legs, for the dogs have bored the ground full of holes, running straight down for eight or ten feet, and about the size of a horse's leg. If the leg comes out whole the ground is not half ploughed, for between the holes are mounds built out of the sand or soil so thrown out that it looks as if there had been a shower of large-sized chopping bowls all fallen bottom side up. Over these the team stumbles and the plough plunges in and out, and while the farmer, thus aggravated, loses his temper, the dog sits safely in his basement parlor, possibly smiling over the folly of man; for no sooner has the farmer left the field at sunset than the dog sets himself to spoiling men's earthworks and rebuilding his own, and the next morning's sun shines on the restored city of hillocks, each inhabitant sitting upright on the roof and calling a merry good-morning to his neighbors. If the farmer repeats his work so do the dogs, and while he grows poor at it they seem to make a good living. They are not disposed to 'move on' before white men. In the midst of a fine farming section in Nebraska, and near a city of



PRAIRIE DOGS.

three thousand people, there is a large prairie dog town which was settled when the 'oldest inhabitant,' pitched his tent in that section, thirty years ago. But ordinarily they manifest a respect for agriculture by locating in sandy, sterile tracts.

"The prairie dog's head is rather flat, his ears

small, his eye bright, his nose hawk-billed, his jaws broad and his teeth wide and sharp; of these teeth he makes a moving machine, clipping blades of grass for his breakfast as neatly as if it were done with scissors. His legs are short and his paws broad, making regular dirt paddles. Each member of the community has his own cellar door to the underground city, but ten feet below the surface each citizen's private apartment opens into his neighbor's; so that in a city containing ten thousand dogs if one is pursued into his hole by smoke, water or other enemy he has many avenues of escape. Their escape is inward and invariably successful, for pursuit is impossible. They have for their companions the snake and the ground owl. Even the most skilful hunters find it difficult to kill these animals. They scent danger afar off, and have a pretty correct idea of rifle range."

SIGNORA CRAWFORD,
Clifton Forge, Virginia.

Bessie C. Hall, Nominy Grove, Va., sends us a pleasant letter on Cabin John Bridge, but so many descriptions of this famous bridge have been published that I can only print a part of it. She says:

"When I was in Washington last it was with much pleasure that I visited Cabin John Bridge, through which the water supply of the city of Washington is conveyed over Cabin John Creek. This bridge is remarkable for having the longest stone arch in the world. The arch has a clear spring of two hundred and twenty feet, and is said to be twenty feet longer than the arch of the Grosvenor Bridge which spans the River Dee.

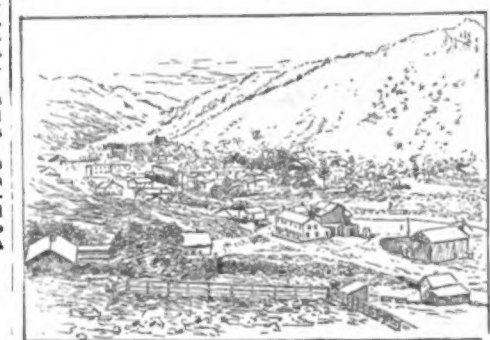
"Cabin John Bridge is built of granite with a Seneca stone coping along the roadway. In length it measures four hundred and fifty feet, in height one hundred and five feet. It cost \$237,000 and is claimed to stand unsurpassed in the history of bridge building."

The following extracts are taken from a private letter to myself from a cousin in Summit County, Colorado, but they are so interesting in showing what can be done in the way of making her way in the world by a woman of energy and pluck, that I cannot forbear printing them for the benefit of my nieces and nephews, reserving, however, the name of the writer.

"I have mining property here which will be of great value when developed, yet I am now obliged to suffer for the want of the necessities of life. For two years I have done my own assessment; I have two claims on the same lode, and the law requires one hundred dollars' worth of work for each claim. I did sixty-seven days' work, myself, last summer, which at three dollars per day amounted to two hundred dollars. The law allows three dollars per day on assessment to a woman as well as a man, but I cannot work at rock-breaking; I cannot strike it myself. I can only work on the surface, making roads, etc. I hope to be able to raise money now in a few weeks to put miners at work."

Now let us go to the Argentine Pass, the place whence "the waters run both ways."

"Argentine Pass, which is, I believe, the highest wagon road in the world, is in the Rocky Mountains about ten miles above Georgetown, Colorado. It is thirteen thousand four hundred feet above sea level, and from its summit may be seen at the same



IDAHO SPRINGS, COLORADO.

time the sources of two rivers, one on the Atlantic and the other on the Pacific slope.

"Around us are the flowery slopes and cool and crystal waters; while beyond innumerable mountains of every conceivable form and shape loom up on every side, many of them snow capped. We know not whether to say beautiful or grand; it is both, and as we gaze upon the awful sublimity of the scene our hearts go out with awe and reverence 'from nature unto nature's God.'

"The road on the Pacific slope follows the course of the Snake river, so named, I presume, on account of the serpentine path which it describes as it descends the mountain. The road is cut into the mountain side, and while on the left, as you go down, the mountain rises above you, on your right is a precipice hundreds of feet deep, at the base of which the river throws up the white spray as it dashes over its rocky bed. The road is so narrow that two teams cannot pass each other, and it winds around the mountain so abruptly that you can only see a few feet ahead.

The first time we crossed the pass the driver told us that once, while on the road, he met a loaded team, and as his wagon was empty they unhitched his horses, led them by in single file, and then took the wagon to pieces, carried the pieces by, set up the wagon and hitched up the horses again before he could go on."

MRS. F. A. MITCHELL, Montezuma, Colorado.

Our next letter is from a boy at the Farm School on Thompson's Island, Boston Harbor. It is not often that I print the letters of children, for this is entirely a grown people's page, but this is so well written and expressed, and withal so interesting that I decided to give it place among the letters of older people.

"It may seem funny to talk about having spiders for pets, but every summer since I have been at the school there have been as many as a hundred spiders in the flower gardens, which the boys have had as their pets. There are about a hundred boys at the school, and each boy can have a garden. If he wants to have spiders for pets he gets permission to go down in the meadow to hunt for them. Then he brings them up to his garden and puts them on some plant. Soon the spider will spin a web and settle down to business and make himself at home. The boys bring the spiders up from the meadow in their hats and often carry them around in that way, wearing the hats on their heads. They never think of being afraid of the spiders.

"There are four kinds of spiders that the boys keep. One they call 'golden.' This is the largest, and is spotted with two lines of gold running along his back. The 'silver' is a spry and good-looking fellow. If a fly gets in his web he is gone for sure. Sometimes the boys try to fool this fellow by putting a wasp or a bee in his web, but the spider seems to know that if he gets near he will be hurt, so he remains away and shakes the web until they drop out. Then there is the 'funny fellow.' They call him this because he is so lubberly, and makes his web so strong as to stop anything which might fly or hop into it. He builds himself a den by pulling two large leaves together and fastening them with his web. He will not come out until he is sure of something to eat. The 'brass back' is the smallest. The way he lives is to make a web across some plant, facing the sky, so if a mosquito should light there it would be easy to get him before he could get away. He is of a brass color, and is the smallest of all, but is the quickest and the easiest scared.

When the spiders want to lay eggs they eat their webs and drop down to the ground to search for a place in which to lay. If this letter was not so long I would tell you how the boys save the eggs,

and how they make the spiders fight. Perhaps I will write that in another letter.

CHESTER O. SANBORN

Our next letter describes an old Virginia church. This good old state is rich in the possession of many such antiquities.

"In northeastern Virginia, near the river Potomac, in the county of Westmoreland, so famous in colonial history, stands an antique stone edifice, 'Yeocomoco' church. This building is situated in a lovely valley shaded by magnificent oak trees. Here, in days long gone by, worshipped, among other illustrious men and women, the famous Washingtons and Lees of our beloved land, and in the spacious 'city of the dead' which surrounds the structure, sleep the remains of hundreds of the departed who have been potent factors in the up-building of the United States.

"As the ponderous iron gate swings open to admit the visitor within the massive stone wall enclosing the grounds, he sees before him the beautiful, quiet cemetery lying between himself and the portal of the sacred edifice he has come to see. Hundreds of monuments are there, each recording the name and virtues of some long departed man or woman who once played an active part in the history of the country. Entering the building we seat ourselves in the old square pews which tower above our heads as we sit, and once ensconced in their upholstered interior one is free from all scrutinizing stares. There stands the old pulpit, far up above the congregation, who, doubtless, were obliged to crane their necks in order to behold the speaker. There by the chancel stands the font from which Washington received baptism, and there, above the pulpit, hangs the old sounding board which has many times thrown back to the congregation below the thunders of admonition and denunciation uttered by the preacher.

"But before we depart we must visit the old spring, from which so many cooling draughts have been eagerly received by thirsty pilgrims, and from an iron dipper chained to a beech-tree by its side let us partake of the clear, refreshing water, and then, stopping only to inscribe our names on the trunk of the old tree where thousands of other travelers have done the same before us, we reluctantly leave the place.

IRA G. LEWIS, Village, Va.

I have here a piece of fiction by Miss Deborah Bass, of Littleton, N. H., which is very well written, but which I cannot print simply because I do not use stories of any kind. I thank her for it however.

Another frequent correspondent of ours complains because Aunt Minerva is not willing to correct his bad punctuation, spelling, writing and grammar and then give him a prize for his letter. Now, I don't think that would be a bit fair to the other cousins who take pains with their letters and so deserve the prizes. When he sends me a letter which is worthy of a prize I have always given him one.

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Human Babies and Other Babies.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY DR. WILLIAM A. HAMMOND,
SURGEON GENERAL U. S. ARMY, RETIRED.



A BABY is a surprisingly stupid creature, all things considered. It seems to have a mental apparatus less well developed than that of any other animal, in infancy—a fact surprising enough when one considers the enormous mental superiority which it attains later in life over all the brute

creation. A monkey is ever so much smarter than a very young child, age for age, and when two weeks old it knows as much as the latter knows at six months.

Now, it may perhaps be interesting to put together a few facts, for purposes of comparison, regarding the mental development of various animals in infancy. While the baby stands at the foot of the list, it is only just to negro infants to state that they are very much brighter than white infants; they look more intelligent, their perceptions are more acute, and their minds expand more rapidly. A two-year-old colored child, ordinarily, is far ahead mentally of a white child at the same age, and this superiority continues up to about five years, after which the white youngster passes the other and quickly forges ahead.

But a monkey baby is far more clever than any human baby. I once saw, at the Aquarium in New York City, a chimpanzee mother nursing her sick infant, only a few days old, whose behavior was in all respects like that of a human youngster of six months. Its mamma, evidently suffering all the pangs of maternal anxiety in its behalf, bestowed upon it just such endearments as a woman would give to her child, and it returned her solicitude with looks and actions of intelligent affection. It is a notable fact that among animals generally, baring man, the female monkey continues her care for her offspring longest.

The law in nature seems to be that those animals which stand highest in the scale of creation develop slowest mentally. Thus the white human infant is at the foot of the list in respect to intelligence; the negro infant comes next—I purposely leave the brown and yellow races out of the discussion, because the study of this subject has not been extended to them—the monkey is next in order, and so on. A dog baby, following the law referred to, exhibits more intelligence when very young than a monkey baby. I myself have made some quite elaborate experiments with puppies, and have obtained most interesting results. If you take a pup three weeks old, which has never tasted anything but milk, and hold out to it something in your hand, it will come to it in the belief that it is food; but no human infant under six months can be taught to hold out its hand for a thing, though a colored child will do it a month sooner than a white child.

Hold out a lighted cigar to an inexperienced puppy, and he will come to it promptly and burn his nose. Under no circumstances, however, can he be persuaded to approach the cigar a second time. Having given marked evidence of disapprobation and physical suffering, he retires in disgust and sets down the unpleasantness among his never-to-be-forgotten memories. Henceforth a cigar is something for him to avoid, and the lesson is learned thoroughly and finally. But try the same trick on a baby, using, let us say, a metal object that is heated just enough to be painful to grasp. The child will accept it, drop it, and cry, time after time, requiring dozens of repetitions of the experience before it will refuse to be further victimized.

There can be no better evidence of the superiority of the dog baby to the human baby in respect to intelligence than is afforded by such an experiment as this. The puppy puts together cause and effect, draws a conclusion unfavorable to lighted cigars as affecting the canine system, and forms a decision in consequence. On the other hand, the comparatively unintelligent infant perceives merely a discomfort, sets up a howl, indulges in no reasoning whatever on the subject, and is ready to repeat the same imprudence over and over again. Only after a great many repetitions of the performance does the fact trickle through its dull brain that, inasmuch as pain invariably follows contact with the metal object, the latter is a good thing to keep away from.

Galen, a famous philosopher and one of the fathers of medicine, made an interesting test of the intelligence of a newborn goat which had not even tasted its mother's milk. He placed the little animal in the middle of a circle of small pans containing different kinds of milk. One of the receptacles held ass's milk, another mare's milk, another cow's milk, another sheep's milk, and another goat's milk. The kid smelt of them all carefully in turn, but refused to touch any of the milks until it came to the goat's which it proceeded to drink up until the pan was empty. Some people would call this an exhibition of instinct, but I would rather be disposed to regard it as an operation of judgment, which was intelligently formed upon the sense of smell.

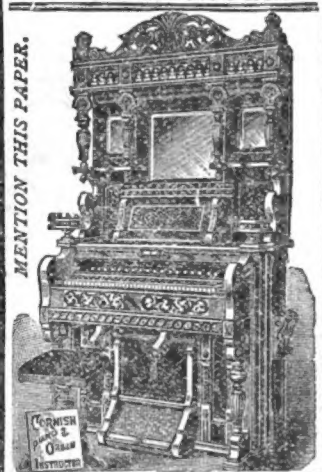
It has long been popularly supposed that animals other than man were mere automata, being gifted by nature with a species of mechanical impulse in lieu of intelligence, in obedience to which they did whatever was required for their own preservation and so forth. Even the great philosopher Descartes endorsed this idea. However, we know a great deal more nowadays than was understood in his time about natural laws, and we have come to realize that the lower animals do actually possess minds like ours, the difference being not of kind but only of degree. They are reasoning beings, but they cannot reason so well as we do, because their brain structure is not equal to ours.

Take the dog for example. There is not a single faculty belonging to man that is not possessed by the dog. He has judgment, and on the whole he uses it wisely, so that we justly regard him as the most intelligent of beasts, with the exception of the monkey. He has an excellent memory, and his senses are more acute than ours are. He knows the difference between right and wrong, as his actions often testify. His emotional system is highly developed. His affection for his master is proverbial; he is jealous on occasions, and he indulges hatred toward persons who are unkind to him. It may even be said that he has the

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animals devour their own young on occasions. I am sure that plants as well as animals possess instinct—that is to say, a force co-existent with their growth and implanted originally with the seed from which they sprouted. This instinct impels them to the performance of actions calculated to preserve their existence and to secure their well-being. Thus they reach their tendrils in search of support, and send their rootlets deep down into the earth in pursuit of moisture when the weather is dry. Likewise through the operation of instinct, they open their flowers in the morning and close them in the evening. Nor are these operations due to the heat or light of the sun's rays, inasmuch as they are performed when both are excluded. The sunflower turns its face toward the solar orb at all hours of the day, and it does the same thing when covered with an india-rubber tent, as I myself have ascertained by experiment.

The faculty of instinct in plants stands in place of reason, which they do not possess. So far as I am able to perceive, the instinct of plants differs in no essential respect from that of animals, though its manifestations are different. Instinct is implanted in all living beings from their beginning, and is a necessary part of their constitution.

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MASASHI KOBAYASHI.

JAPAN AND HER PEOPLE.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

In many respects Japan is a most remarkable country. For thousands of years ignorance and superstition had reigned. No foreigners were allowed to enter the country, all ports were closed to vessels of other countries for the people regarded them as devils. Shipwrecked sailors who were fortunate to get back home had marvelous tales to tell of Japan, and they with the exception of a few intrepid missionaries were the only ones who had ever seen the interior of this strange country. In 1872 Commodore Perry sailed into Mississippi Bay, with a commission from the United States to introduce Japan to open her ports to foreigners. In 1872, for the first time in 1000 years, the Mikado appeared to his subjects in person. Before this time the Shogun, acting as prime minister, had been the real head of the empire. The change was made in the form of government to a constitutional monarchy. Ports were opened to foreign vessels, and since that time the Japanese have made the most wonderful advancement, until at the present day the nation takes its place among the great powers of the civilized world, the youngest, though by no means the least important member of the family.

As a people the Japanese are remarkably intelligent, scrupulously clean, and in manners and words might be copied to advantage by most of other nations. They have been called by one writer the "French of Asia," on account of their extreme politeness. They are modest and gentle, sensitive and fond of flowers and animals. Each month of the year they celebrate the blossoming of some of the flowers. On these festival days crowds of people leave for the country to enjoy the beauties of nature. In the spring the cherry-trees, in the summer the chrysanthemums and in the winter the snow-covered trees make beautiful spectacles—keenly enjoyed by these gentle people.

The people in their religion are divided into three groups, the Shintoists, or idolaters, Buddhists, and Christians. Shintoism is now becoming less prevalent, while Christianity is gaining daily in strength. Buddhism is still important, and it is on account of the teachings of this religion that the people have such respect for domestic animals. According to Buddhism, the soul of a dead person enters the body of some animal. Therefore the good Buddhists eat no meat lest perchance they carelessly swallow the soul of some ancestor.

A curious custom prevails at Mikado, the sacred place of temples where all pilgrims go. Here idols are placed in various shrines. The worshippers write their prayers on a piece of paper, chew the paper into a ball, and throw it at the idol. Should the religious spitball strike the face of the idol and stick it is a good omen—the prayer will be answered. Should it stick to the body it is a less favorable sign. Should it fall to the ground, there is no hope for the petitioner.

The entrance to the shrines is marked with what are called "torii." These are formed by two, a post on either side of the path, slightly converging. Across the top is placed a beam with the ends bent slightly upward. Some authorities say these are for the birds to perch upon, as birds are regarded as direct messengers to heaven. Others assert that the shape of the torii is in imitation of the Chinese character representing heaven.

The family life of the Japanese is radically different from ours. The father is the head of the family and all live under one roof. On the death of the father the authority falls to the eldest son, who must accept it or be forever disgraced. He directs the rest in everything that they do, and pays all their bills. If a younger son marries the head of the family pays all his bills and the younger son then lives at home. Should there be no son the eldest daughter must ask somebody to marry her. Her husband takes the wife's name, and becomes head of the family. Women have the pleasure of asking men to marry them. In case she is accepted the man takes her name. In case the man asks her, she takes his name. The younger sons are allowed to leave the family and become the head of a family of their own. This has to be done by petition. The eldest son is denied this privilege. It may be easily imagined that the eldest son therefore is not always in an enviable position.

In many of their customs the Japanese are radically different from us. As a nation of respect we stand—they sit. We take off our hats in the house—they off their shoes. Our mourning color is black—theirs is white; we drive a horse into a stable, they back him in; they read from right to left, we from left to right; we write across the page—they write up and down. The houses in the larger towns are numbered in the order in which they are built, thus an old house may be number 2, while the next one recently built may be number 2000.

Twenty-five years ago there were no public schools in Japan, and the young men who

wished for an education were obliged to go to America. To-day there are excellent schools and colleges there with as good a system as can be found anywhere. Foreign teachers were called in, and schools for mathematics, astronomy, chemistry, geology, civil government, electrical engineering, naval construction modern languages, law, medicine and other branches were established. There is also an excellent school for the deaf and blind.

When the change came, the Japanese were so eager to adopt new methods and new customs that the emperor was obliged to restrain his subjects from abandoning all their old ways. He was successful in so doing and now while civilization has changed the people somewhat, in their home life, theaters, shops, festivals, and many habits, they remain unchanged.

Railroads equipped with the finest engines, cars and other material from the best American shops are popular in Japan as are also "gin-orksha," a sort of overgrown baby carriage drawn by manpower, and the even more primitive "Kago" a sort of sedan chair or hammock swung on a pole of bamboo, and carried by two men. These men are splendid specimens of athletes. They can travel 10 miles an hour, carrying a passenger, and keep up this pace all day if necessary, with no apparent discomfort. They wear little clothing even in winter except a sort of cape of straw in rainy weather. The farmers also go almost entirely naked even in severe winter weather without seeming to feel the cold. European dress is now being largely worn in the cities, however.

Japan will soon be the equal of any country on the globe. To-day her schools are as fine as any—her people are learning mechanic arts rapidly, her army is composed of fine, well-drilled and well-officer men, while her navy, equipped with the latest modern warships is formidable indeed. No better example of her superiority on the sea could perhaps be shown than her late war with China, where the difference between modern progressiveness and ancient conservatism was so marked as to be almost pitiful.

Haciendo Del Oso (Playing the Bear.)

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE customs governing love-making in countries whose people are of the Spanish race would drive the average American youth to despair. The usual course of procedure in a love affair is this: A young man sees somewhere a young woman who attracts him, in other words he falls in love with her at first sight, or thinks he does, which amounts to the same thing, and if he does not already know who she is and where she lives, he hastens to find out.

He wastes no time in seeking a formal introduction, for that he well knows is unobtainable, but he begins promenading back and forth where he can be seen by the young woman from her little cage of a balcony, and this from the walking to and fro like a chained animal, is called "haciendo del oso" (playing the bear). La Senorita is quick to note and understand his actions, and if she is not pleased with his appearance, or for any other reason does not wish his attentions, she gives no response to his meaning glances and theatrical demonstrations of blissful pain, but turns her back upon him, practically saying, "Go away, I do not like you."

On the other hand, if she wishes to encourage him, she looks at him tenderly and gives him an occasional smile, and both being acquainted with the language of the eye and fan, they soon reach an understanding although not a word has been spoken. Thus encouraged, the young man continues day after day, sometimes, but only in rare instances, for years, to walk to and fro in sight of his sweetheart. Usually, however, after a period of promenading and serenading, and smiling and sighing, in which he is supposed to prove the sincerity of his profession, if it has been ascertained that he is a desirable match, he is invited to call.

His troubles are not ended yet, however, if viewed from the standpoint of an American courtship, for he is not permitted to sit alone with his sweetheart until a late hour in a dimly lighted parlor whispering tender nonsense into her ear. When he calls he is received in the brightly lighted sala (reception room) by as many members of the young lady's family as may find it convenient to be present, and in their presence and within their hearing his wooing must be conducted.

If everything goes well, an engagement is soon announced, but even then the young people are not permitted to swing on the front gate on starry evenings, discussing astronomy and the condition of the weather. They are never allowed to experience the delights of the moonlight drive alone; and the blissful privacy of the box at theatre or opera, remains equally a stranger, for should the young man rashly invite his sweetheart to accompany him to any place whatever, his invitation is understood to include her entire family.

When at last the long-expected day has arrived, and the good old Padre has pronounced his benediction upon them as husband and wife, the young people are allowed the blissful privilege of being alone, but not before that, even for a moment.

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The month of the year that has few friends and many enemies is here. It takes a very genial optimistic sort of person to pass through the changes and chances of November weather without an adverse comment. A noted satirist once said: "What becomes of conversation if we may not mention the lady who has just left the room?" He seemed to forget the topic that is always with us—the weather. We may resolve not to be inane enough to start the conversational ball rolling with any such time worn farce as the weather. Alas, habit will conquer even the most brilliant and we pass the stereotyped remarks without thinking and with thinking. November has made a desperate effort to redeem its dreary skies and depressing atmosphere by furnishing two good round legal holidays to the poor mortals whose spirit it depresses. Election day and Thanksgiving. Even November skies have a silver lining, although the political party of the gold creed might hesitate to allow it.

Japan has long been noted for the exquisite art displayed in its textile fabrics, its pottery and its carvings. The imagination of the Japanese artist seems to surpass the greatest flights of other nations. Among the common people one can find traces of the delicacy of feeling and the sentiment that prompts the best work of their artist. A British naval officer died when his ship was in the inland sea of Japan. He was buried in the grounds of a Japanese temple. For thirty years after the natives cared for the tomb of the stranger. On a certain day of the month they clean and sweep the grave and offer up flowers and incense. A wooden cross had been set up by the ship's officers but this fell into decay. The simple but poetic natured folk of the village had it replaced by a monument of stone. They said: "Truly it would be too sad if the grave of our solitary guest from afar, who has become a spirit in a strange land were suffered to pass out of all knowledge." All this tender, delicate fancy is found among the poorest peasants. Surely our modern poet of labor would have no need of turning from the toilers of this land and exclaiming: "What gulfs between him and the seraphim!"

There is always something a little laughable in the annexation schemes of private individuals when they apply the schemes to national affairs. Away back in the Declaration of Independence days we made provision in that historic document for the expected coming of Canada to join the rebellious thirteen. Canada didn't come and she has no more purpose today of annexing herself to the "States" than she had in that far away time. Still we have people who seriously discuss the possible annexation of Canada. They will be interested in a brother annexationist in Portugal. He is on the staff of the Portuguese monarch and has published a pamphlet giving several reasons why Spain should become a dependency of Portugal. Poor Spain is indeed fallen when such an idea could be seriously held by any person. The Portuguese aid should read the history of the nation that once conquered and held Portugal. Then he should put beside that proud record the history of this our nation; he should even compare the two nations to-day on the lines of enlightenment and civilization. If he has the least judicial turn to his mind, he will save his ink and his imagination for saner fights after he has drawn the comparison.

The progress of affairs in the far east becomes of greater interest to us since our acquisition

of the Philippines. It gives us a diplomatic interest in the talk of partition of China, in the rapid advance in civilization of Japan and in the conflict of the rival interest of Russia and England. We are interested now as a nation affected in its commercial interests by the possible men on the checkerboard of Oriental diplomacy. There is much talk of an alliance between China and Japan to prevent the encroachments of Russia. Many students of affairs believe that such a union would place China again in the ranks of powerful nations. It is thought that the Japanese would abolish the official corruption that has honeycombed the government of China. If the Japs were permitted to be the ruling spirits they would reorganize the Chinese army, navy and finances. The combined navy of China and Japan would offer a formidable obstacle to the Russian advance. The Chinese and Japanese for all the difference in national traits are of the same race. They are "brothers under their skin" and a union would undoubtedly save China from becoming the easy prey of European nations.

Every "once in a while" a ripple of excitement is caused by the declaration that woman has usurped some field of labor. Then again, a wave of excitement comes from the amusement that some field of labor is to be closed to women. A late report has it that the government will gradually rid itself of its women employees. It is claimed that they cannot adapt themselves to varieties of work so well as men and cannot respond as easily to sudden call for unusual exertion. A great telegraph line has been saying these same things for years and yet to-day it pays some of its highest salaries to its women employees. On the other hand it is claimed that the men in Chicago are taking positions as "maids" no, "men of all work." This position certainly furnishes a field for versatility of effort and permits its followers "variety of work." It may be that the very point where it is claimed women fail has caused them to abandon "maid of all work" places to men. All in all this discussion of sex in work may be pleasing but is hardly profitable. In spite of theories, in spite of prejudice, in spite of figures the work will eventually fall into the hands of the most able worker. The simple law of equivalents holds on the field of labor as in most other places.

The last two years has seen a perfect furore for the dramatization of novels. A large number of books that have been successful have been rewritten as plays. Mrs. Burnett's Lady of Quality was among the earlier of these plays. The Christian and The Little Minister held the boards all last winter and The Ghetto, The Gadfly and Becky Sharp have been produced this winter as well as a version of Dickens's Tale of Two Cities. We have long been familiar with the fact that many people acquire their knowledge of history easily through the medium of historical novels. Now we are concentrating still more and are making the attempt to acquire our knowledge of books through an evening at the play. This dramatization of novels can entirely please but one class of people—those who have not read the novels. The audiences are, however, largely made up of people who have read the books and who desire to see a creation of the mind made real. Each person in reading a book has a mental picture of the people who figure in the story. Their impression is firmly fixed before they see the play. One of two things must follow. They are either pleased or displeased at the production—a negative frame of mind is impossible. If the presentation accords with their own preconceived notions they feel satisfied—if it conflicts they cannot shake off the mental attitude they acquired when reading the production and they reject the interpretation. Our ideas of Shakespeare's heroines are clear cut and distinct because they have never spoken to us except through the lines of the play. It is very doubtful indeed whether art or artifice can justify the novel-play.

Thanksgiving Day, 1899, comes to the American people as a day that can in reality be a day of thanks. The material prosperity of the country is greater than it has been for years. On all sides we see the feeling of confidence in the financial outlook. We can feel that our great country occupies a prouder place on the roll of nations than has ever been accorded to her. The individual feeling of thankfulness is apt to be a matter of temperament. If we made it more a question of arithmetic and established a debit and credit column of our earthly advantages we might find cause for thankfulness more often than we really do. Even the most distressing showing on the debit side leaves one long balance on the credit—the very fact of being alive. It is a good world that we live in—its joys and its sorrows are balanced in a fairly even manner. Thanksgiving Day is a purely American holiday. Its origin was in Puritan New England at the time when they were in greatest opposition to the Church of England and showed that opposition by refusing to observe Christmas Day. This being one of the great festival days of the Church the Puritans refused to make merry or to turn from their ordinary pursuits on that day. Thanksgiving Day was kept at first as a day of fasting and rejoicing—later it became a religious festival. We of later years have been rather prone to hark back to the earliest method of observing the day and have let the feasting and general good time draw us away from the old-time Thanksgiving sermon. Within a few years, however, the current of custom has set back again and the attendance at church has become a part of the regular program of the day.

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MARJOLAINE.

BROWNIE HOVER.

mp

1. There's a name that sometimes haunts me, Mar-jo-laine, . . . First it glad-dens, then it taunts me; The re-
 2. Murn'ring silk and sat-in gleaming, Mar-jo-laine! . . . Bid me from this rus-tic dreaming, But in
 3. Lights and pris-ms can-not glist-en, Mar-jo-laine, . . . Like the stars that paus'd to lis-ten By the

Andante.

mf *poco rit.* *mp*

frain . . . Bids me back to trees and heath-er, Where in old-en gold-en weath-er, You and I were oft to-geth-er, Mar-jo-laine. . . .
 vain; . . . 'Tho' en-chant-ments new en-deav-or That old mys-tic spell to sev-er, Heart throbs speak the old name ev-er, Mar-jo-laine. . . .
 lane; . . . And the stars themselves, re-pin-ing, Ere we part-ed were de-clin-ing, Awed by your bright eyes outshining, Mar-jo-laine.

REFRAIN.

mf *p*

Mar-jo-laine, Mar-jo-laine, How I wish that you were with me once a-gain, With the whisp'ring leaves in Cho-rus,

And the starlight glitt'ring o'er us, And the long white road before us, Mar-jo-laine. And the starlight glitt'ring o'er us, And the long white road be-fore us, Mar-jo-laine.

D.C. *poco rit.* *colla parte.*

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Fit your Teeth OR TRUMAN'S CRYSTALLINE STOPS PAIN AND DECAY LASTS A LIFETIME. B. J. TRUMAN, Box 0, Bainbridge, N. Y.

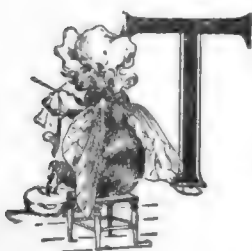
BOYS AND GIRLS Watches, Cameras, Sporting Goods, Jewelry, etc., given away for selling 18 packages of Excelsior Bluing at 10c.

We ask no money. Send your name and address and get outfit and premium list with instructions postpaid. When you sell the Bluing send us the money and select your premium. We Trust You. This is an honest offer. Write for outfit today. EXCELSIOR BLUING CO. Dept. S Chicago

A Ten Thousand Dollar Check signed with The New Idea Pencil will be cashed as quickly as though pen and ink was used. This indestructible up-to-date article is a polished automatic pencil always ready for use and with the point protected to prevent breakage. Answers every purpose of ordinary pencil; but, having indelible lead, is perfect substitute for pen and ink or fountain pen. Carried in the pocket same as stylus and always ready to sign checks, receipts or any papers where you want signature in ink. Marks lines and clothing. No stains or blots; also the best pencil in the world for women or school-children. The ideal pencil for home or all around use and the 20th century idea of a combined pencil and ink together. As hundreds will be sold after introducing, we send one free if you will send six cents to pay mailing and for a three months' trial subscription to our fine monthly story paper now going into 100,000 new homes. Send 25 cents for a year's subscription and we will send half a dozen pencils free, or for 50 cents will send two years' subscription and twelve pencils. You can make more than one hundred per cent. profit selling them. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

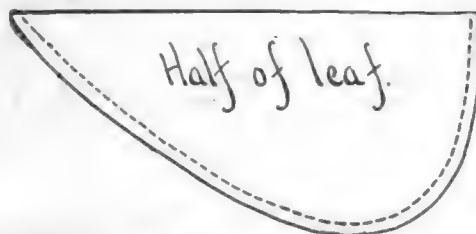


WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



once learned one is surprised to find how simple it is. With a pattern and instructions for any one kind of flower one can learn to make it in half an hour.

"As poppies are the simplest, I will give directions for their manufacture. Use bright red wash silk stiffened very little with gum arabic dissolved in water, and dried perfectly straight. Cut the leaves by the design given, which is full sized, of half a leaf for full open flower. Crimp around dotted edge by creasing in thumb and finger. For the center of flower roll one thread of moss green floss silk and two of black wool around the finger once, twist in a little loop a fine wire and fasten it to the wool and silk which should be twisted into a ball first. Around this gum fasten the poppy leaves five or six to each flower. The base of the flower can be made of soft bees' wax and dusted with green powder. The stems can be wound with green silk or paper, or prettier still, use rubber stems which cost but little; leaves can be cut of green silk and if you want them glossy dip the upper side very quickly in melted paraffine. I would like to give more detailed directions of the above as well as of roses, lilacs, snowballs,



hydrangeas, pansies, chrysanthemums, sunflowers, and others, if desired by any of the Bees, and will do so if they will send me stamped envelope for that purpose."

One of the new forms of entertainment is called a Mystery Tea. This is a very good name, for anything more mysterious as to the meanings of the names of eatables on the menu would be hard to find.

Each guest, when seated at table, was handed a card upon which the list of refreshments was written, but in a very peculiar and obscure manner, and the guest was to choose from this list what she would eat. For instance, some one ordered some "very pale ale" and "sour sustenance" and got some water and pickles. Another ordered "an oriental square" and "a little side dish," and got a Japanese napkin and salted almonds. Someone asked for "a gift of the gods" and "an after-dinner delicacy" and got coffee and toothpicks.

One can easily see how a clever hostess can make up a very amusing menu, with a little thought. Of course prizes can be given to those who choose the most appropriate things, for their lunch, from the cards. The menu given at the lunch in question was as follows—the names in parenthesis of course not being on the card:

(Sandwiches)	A product of the desert.
(Coffee)	A gift of the gods.
(Cake)	Crushed cereal.
(Pickles)	Sour sustenance.
(Water)	Very pale ale.
(Candy)	Solidified Saccharine.
(Stuffed dates)	Toothsome tid-bits.
(Salted almonds)	A little sidedish.
(Tea)	For Russian revels.
(Japanese napkins.)	An Oriental square.
(Toothpicks)	An after-dinner delicacy.
(Ice cream)	An Arctic delight.
(Lemonade)	A tropical fruit drink.



A BATHING CORSET.

Now for an entirely different subject. The corset here illustrated is for sea bathing, and is much more comfortable than to wear

nothing of this kind and to feel the bands from the garments of the bathing suit cutting into the waist. This corset is made of ribbons and the front and back steels, and can easily be made at home; straps may go over the shoulders if desired, but this is not necessary. These corsets being made of one thickness of ribbon are quickly dried, and do not shrink as do those made of cotton. They may be made quite short, using for the front the shortest steel that is in the market. The idea is to keep the skirt band from cutting uncomfortably into the waist, as is so often the case, in order to keep it tight enough.

Many slim people wear this ribbon girdle all the time, instead of a heavier corset, and it is really very comfortable—but of course a stout person could not wear one; it is necessary to put bones in under the arms, of course, if to be worn under the ordinary gown, as the ribbon will wrinkle at that point if not stiffened.

One of the Bees from Brooklyn has suggested a "housewife" for traveling, which she described as follows:

Take a piece of blue denim 18 inches long and 7 inches wide; at the head, sew across the width a piece 3 inches deep and 7 long; then stitch down every 1 3/4 inch space, to hold spools (4 of them) under this fasten a needle book, each leaf to measure 3 by 5 inches. Underneath book, sew two strips of white tape 5 inches long, and fasten spaces to hold scissors; under this make a pocket 3 inches deep and 6 wide, with lap to fasten over with button, and embroider word "Buttons" in white on outside; bind the whole with white tape. Roll up in "Music Roll" style and fasten with button on outside and embroider your name.

A medicine case may be made same as housewife, with only pockets, into which fit the bottles; and a pocket for plaster.

CATARRH CAN BE CURED.

Catarrh is a kindred ailment of consumption, long considered incurable; and yet there is one remedy that will positively cure catarrh in any of its stages. For many years this remedy was used by the late Dr. Stevens, a widely noted authority on all diseases of the throat and lungs. Having tested its wonderful curative powers in thousands of cases, and desiring to relieve human suffering, I will send free of charge to all sufferers from Catarrh, Asthma, Consumption and nervous diseases, this recipe, in German, French or English, with full directions for preparing and using. Sent by mail by addressing, with stamp, naming this paper, W. A. Noyes, 920 Powers Block, Rochester, N. Y.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & Co., Augusta, Maine.

THE NATURAL BODY BRACE

CURES

Female Weakness, Stomping Posture, Prolapsus, Inflammations, Internal Pains, Tired Feeling, Backache, Weak Lungs, Nervousness, Constipation, and other ills.

TRIAL FREE.

It will make you comfortable, buoyant, happy—give you ability to work and enjoy life. It is simple, easily external, adjustable to any figure. Worn with or without corset. We have over 15,000 letters like this in our files.

Chandler, Okla., July 27, 1899.

Your Brace did all you said about it and more for me. It has saved me a big doctor's bill and brought me good health, which I had not had before in 25 years. My troubles were dropsy, headache, bearing down pains, lung disease, weak stomach, constipation, painful menstruation, whites and falling womb.

MRS. L. B. DICKINSON.

Write today for particulars and illustrated book mailed free in plain, sealed envelope. Address: The Natural Body Brace Co., Box 27, Salina, Kansas. Especially adapted to those anticipating motherhood and to nursing mothers.

ANY LADY

Having 2 or 3 hours' spare time a day, can make \$5 weekly working for us at home. Nothing to sell. Write to-day for free sample.

P. Manhattan Emb. Co., Hickman St., N. Y.

ONE CENT

Spent for a postal card will be the means of putting you on the track of profitable employment as a representative for the handsome Fashion Magazine published. For particulars and Sample Copy address Dept. 8, Standard Fashion Co., 32 West 14th Street, New York.

LADIES

I Make Big Wages —AT HOME— and will gladly tell you all about my work. It's very pleasant and will easily pay \$15 weekly. This is no deception. I want no money and will gladly send full particulars to all sending 2c. stamp. MRS. A. H. WIGGINS, Box 8, Benton Harbor, Mich.

LADIES TO DO PLAIN SEWING AT HOME, \$1.50 a day; four months work guaranteed; send stamped addressed envelope for particulars. R. W. HURTON & Co., Dept. 4, Philadelphia, Pa.

FAMILY RECORD beautiful picture, rich colors, background solid gold, tremendous seller; agents delighted; sample free for 12 cts. to pay postage, etc.; \$ for \$1; charges paid. HOME ART PICTURE CO., Chicago, Ill.

LADIES VENUS HANDY BELTS with Hose Supporter attached, made of black satene in all sizes. Special price 25c., regular price 50c. State waist measure when ordering. Free Catalogue of 200 easy selling women's and children's specialties. Agents wanted. VENUS MFG. CO., Chicago.

WANTED WOMEN to bind dress shields at home. Steady work; dress shields no disadvantage; ask your dealer to show you Kora Shields and Kora Klasp Hose Supporters. Kora Shields snap on waist without sewing. Send 10c. for catalogue of work. The Kora Shield Co., Dept. B, 528 Broome St., N. Y.

NEW EMBROIDERY

Needle, silver handle. The best needle ever made. A child can operate it. A delight to all. Works cotton, silk or zephyr into a thousand different designs. Needle, directions, 14 designs, sewing course used and sample stitch, sent postpaid, 50c. Agents wanted. WHALE ART CO., Dept. 17, St. Louis, Mo.

\$13.95 NOW BUYS OUR HIGH-ARM LAREINE SEWING MACHINE

A fine #40 5-Drawer Machine, made with Piano Polished Oak Cabinet, beautiful pothole cover, the best high-arm head made, has every known improvement, will sew any weight cloth, complete set of attachments free—guaranteed 20 years.

SEND NO MONEY but deposit \$13.95 with your nearest banker, send us his receipt for the money and we will ship the Lareine sewing machine direct to you with instructions to the banker not to send us the money but to hold it subject to your order for thirty days. During that time test the machine thoroughly in your home and if unsatisfactory return it to the freight depot in good order, crated and directed to us, get a receipt from the freight agent, present it to the banker and he will refund you \$13.95. Write today for our Big Free Catalogue offering bargains in machines from \$8.50 up.

THE LOUIS R. VESON CO., 157 W. Jackson St., Chicago, Ill.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

Watch and Chain FOR ONE DAY'S WORK.

We send this Nickel-Plated Watch, also a Chain and Charm to Boys and Girls for selling 1 1/2 dozen packages of BLUINE at 10c. each. Send your full address by return mail and we will forward the Blaine, postpaid, and a large Premium List.

No money required. We send the Blaine at our own risk. You go among your neighbors and sell it. Send us the money that you get for it and we send you the Watch, Chain and Charm, prepaid.

This is an American Watch, Nickel-Plated Case, Open Face, Heavy Beveled Crystal. It is Guaranteed to keep Accurate Time, and with Proper Care should last ten years.

BLUINE CO., Box 418, CONCORD JUNCTION, MASS.

The Old Reliable firm who sell honest goods and give Valuable Premiums.

Easily Earned. No Money Required. Samples FREE.

You can earn this splendid Cash, 75x28 in., extra large, upholstered in figured velours or corduroy, best steel springs, deeply tufted, very heavy fringe, worth \$13 in any retail store, by selling 52 boxes of our High Grade Toilet Soap, among your friends and neighbors at 5c. per box. We want you for the Soap. Our handsome illustrated catalogue showing 150 other valuable premiums. Send free.

Don't miss this wonderful offer. Write today.

BULLOCK, WARD & CO., 330-332 Dearborn St., Chicago.

BEST PAYING THING for Agents is our PHOTO FAMILY RECORDS, OTHER PICTURES, PORTRAITS & FRAMES. Address Dept. 3, C. P. CORY & CO., 41 & 43 Jefferson St., Chicago, Ill.

COMBINATION OFFER

FREE

Anyone can easily earn a Watch Chain and Charm—ladies' or gents' style—gold plated nickel or silver Watch (not a clock called a watch), gold finished pearl Initial Pin & a 56-Piece Tea Set full size, for family use. This Tea Set is beautifully decorated and most artistic design. A rare chance. You can get this handsome TEA SET, A GOLD WATCH CHAIN & CHARM with PEARL INITIAL PIN for selling our Bluing and Ink Powder. We mean what we say and will give this beautiful Tea Set, Watch, etc., ABSOLUTELY FREE if you will comply with the extraordinary offer we send to every person taking advantage of this advertisement. To quickly introduce our Bluing and Ink Powder, if you agree to sell only 15 packages at 10c a package, please to send immediate receipt for the same. We will then write to-day (SEND NO MONEY) and we will forward the goods prepaid, when sold SEND US the \$1.50 and we send you for selling the 15, one Watch Chain & Charm & a Pearl Initial Pin with any letter you wish together with our offer of a 56-piece china Tea Set same day money is received. This is a liberal inducement to every one in the land and all who receive the Tea Set, Watch, etc., are delighted.

Chemical Specialty Co., Dept. 145, 40 West 22d St., New York City.

OUR LIBERAL OFFER.

heavy cloth bound book, 10x7x2 inches, containing a complete assortment of large samples of men's and women's mackintoshes, also handsome large fashion figures, etc., one confidential price and instruction book, one tape measure, one rubber stamp with your name and pad, business cards, order blanks, stationery, etc. WE MAKE NO CHARGE FOR THIS OFFER, but as a guarantee of good faith on your part and to protect us against those who would order outfit (which cost us nearly \$2.00) out of curiosity or just to get the cloth samples, we require everyone, after receiving the outfit at the express office, to pay as a temporary deposit 50 cents and express charges, and we will return the 50 cents with your first order. Understand—we will send you the complete outfit by express C.O.D. subject to examination, you to examine the outfit at our express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and you are convinced you can make money taking orders, pay the express agent 50c and express charges, we will send you the outfit and your 50c with your first order.

START TO WORK AT ONCE. You need no money; show the samples, take the orders at your own price, adding a good profit for yourself; we will fill your orders daily, send the mackintoshes to your customers. C.O.D. subject to examination, collect your full selling price and weekly send us in cash your full profit. No other work is so simple. Money can't be made easier. Any man or woman anywhere can make \$5.00 every day. Our book of instructions makes everything so plain that anyone can do the work at once and be sure of big wages from the start. Cut this notice out and send us today saying you will give it 10 days' trial. YOU WILL NEVER REGRET IT. Nearly everyone sends the 50 cents with their application. We refer to Metropolitan National Bank or any Express Co. in Chicago.

Address, **DUNDEE RUBBER CORPORATION, 184 Fulton St., Chicago.**

Men & Women's

MAKINTOSHES

ONE CENT is the price of a Postal Card. Buy one, send us your name and address and we'll tell you how you can get the most exquisite XMAS PRESENTS for nothing.

THE OLYMPIA MFG. CO., 156 E. 25th St., New York.

FREE. NON-EXPLOSIVE NIGHT LAMP.

We will send you one of these Lamps with Nickel base, fine handsome pleated shade, chimney etc., all complete if you will send us 15 cents for a six month's trial subscription to our great monthly "SUNSHINE" either in your own or a friend's name. We want '90 to be the banner year for our list and offer this great premium as an inducement for you to take our paper right along. You can make money offering the New Lamp, and Exclusive Perfumery with our subscribers. Send 15c. at once and we send sample combined Bottle Perfume and this Ornamental and Petite Lamp. Two Lamps and subscriptions and two lots of Perfumery for 25c. order quick and get agents' terms and low cash discounts in big lots. Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Me.

Sales Agents Wanted!

Men and Women make \$50 to \$200 every month selling our Gents' and Ladies' Waterproof Mackintoshes or Rain Coats.

WE SELL MEN'S MAKINTOSHES in all styles at \$1.50 to \$4.75. LADIES' MAKINTOSHES AND WATERPROOF DRESS SKIRTS and CAPES at \$2.00 to \$6.00. YOU (man or woman) can make \$5.00 every day taking orders for these garments. At your low prices, everyone will order from you, for no one can meet your prices.

WE WANT ONE AGENT (man or woman) in every city and county in the United States. No experience necessary, no capital required. We furnish a BIG BOOK of Mackintoshes and women's fashion figures, your name on rubber stamp, tape measure, business cards, all necessary stationery. Everything complete for doing business.

We are the **LARGEST DEALERS** in America in Men's and Women's Waterproof Mackintoshes and we sell them at the lowest price ever known, and exclusively through regularly appointed men and women agents, who make \$50.00 to \$200.00 every month at the work.

Cut this notice out and send to us. State the territory you wish to work in. Say in your letter you will give this work an immediate trial of at least 10 DAYS, and we will immediately SEND YOU FREE OUR SALESMAN'S COMPLETE OUTFIT on the following easy conditions. Each outfit costs us nearly \$2.00, for it is made very complete to insure success for the agent. The outfit consists of one handsome mackintoshes, also handsome large fashion figures, etc., one confidential price and instruction book, one tape measure, one rubber stamp with your name and pad, business cards, order blanks, stationery, etc. WE MAKE NO CHARGE FOR THIS OUTFIT, but as a guarantee of good faith on your part and to protect us against those who would order outfit (which cost us nearly \$2.00) out of curiosity or just to get the cloth samples, we require everyone, after receiving the outfit at the express office, to pay as a temporary deposit 50 cents and express charges, and we will return the 50 cents with your first order. Understand—we will send you the complete outfit by express C.O.D. subject to examination, you to examine the outfit at our express office and if found perfectly satisfactory and you are convinced you can make money taking orders, pay the express agent 50c and express charges, we will send you the outfit and your 50c with your first order.

START TO WORK AT ONCE. You need no money; show the samples, take the orders at your own price, adding a good profit for yourself; we will fill your orders daily, send the mackintoshes to your customers. C.O.D. subject to examination, collect your full selling price and weekly send us in cash your full profit. No other work is so simple. Money can't be made easier. Any man or woman anywhere can make \$5.00 every day. Our book of instructions makes everything so plain that anyone can do the work at once and be sure of big wages from the start. Cut this notice out and send us today saying you will give it 10 days' trial. YOU WILL NEVER REGRET IT. Nearly everyone sends the 50 cents with their application. We refer to Metropolitan National Bank or any Express Co. in Chicago.

Address, **DUNDEE RUBBER CORPORATION, 184 Fulton St., Chicago.**

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.

It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

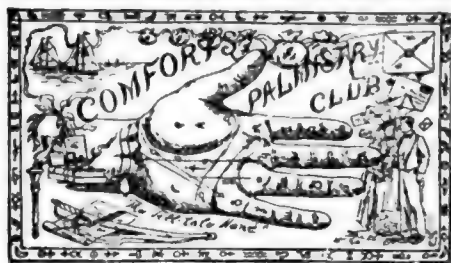
1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.	1 Floral Wreath for Monogram or Handkerchief Case, 5x5.
1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.	1 Design for Tray Cloth, 7x15.
1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5 1/2 x 8 1/2.	1 Design for Centerpiece, Maidenhair Ferns, 9 1/2 x 9 1/2.
1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6 1/2 x 10.	1 Rosebud Dolly, 7 1/2 x 7 1/2.
1 Clover Design for Dolly.	1 Alphabet for Towels or Table Linen, 1 1/4 inches high.
1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.	1 Design Centerpiece, Pansies, 10x10.
1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3 1/2 x 6.	1 Pansy Dolly, 6 1/2 x 6 1/2.
1 Design for Souvenir Case with Motto, 5 1/2 x 8.	1 Alphabet for Handkerchiefs or Fine Linen, 1 inch high.
1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.	1 Border for Flannel Work, 3 1/2 inches wide, and 29 other designs for embroidery of every description—too numerous to mention here.
1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.	
1 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Dollies, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2.	
1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11 1/2 x 15 1/2.	
1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.	
1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.	
1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.	
1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.	
4 Designs for Butter Plate Dollies, 3 1/2 x 3 1/2.	
1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.	
1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.	
1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x15.	
1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6 1/2 x 6 1/2.	
1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.	

The patterns are made of linen bond paper, and consist of 9 sheets of patterns, each sheet 14x23 inches in size. As good as can be made.

With each outfit we send full instructions for doing the stamping, and one piece of KURKA COMPOUND, enabling anyone to do permanent stamping, instantly, without heat or trouble. Your money back if you want it, but no one ever does.

AN OFFER TO EVERY LADY. If you will send us only 35 cents we will send you one Outfit all charges paid and make you a trial subscription to the largest, brightest and best illustrated monthly paper for 3 months, postpaid.

Address **COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.**



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

CONDITIONS.

To have one's hands read in this department, by Digitus, one of the finest living palmists, it is necessary to observe the following conditions:

Impressions of both hands must be sent, fully postpaid and having the name, address and nom de plume of the sender enclosed in the package also.

The package must in every instance be accompanied by the names and addresses of eight new subscribers at twenty-five cents each, the whole amount, \$2.00 being remitted with the package, addressed to COMFORT PALMISTRY CLUB, Augusta, Maine.

No notice will be taken of impressions and requests for readings unless the sender has fully complied with the above conditions.

To take impressions, first hold two large pieces of blank paper over a candle or similar flame, until they are heavily coated with the smoke. Then lay these pieces down, smoke side uppermost on a pad of cotton. Now place the two hands, palms downward, one on each sheet of paper, pressing firmly and steadily down, but taking care not to move the hand. Keep them so for one minute and lift carefully, so as not to disturb the impression. Have ready some fixatif, which can be bought at a drug store or an art store or made with gum arabic and water in an atomizer. Spray this over the impressions before they are moved and allow them to dry. Then they are ready to send.

Smoked paper impressions are the best. But if it is desired to send a plaster cast, take plaster of Paris and dissolve in water to the consistency of thick cream. Pour this into a large shallow dish and when it is hardening place the hand, well-pressed, palm downward, in the plaster, pressing downward. Several minutes will be required to get this impression and great care must be taken in removing the hand, not to break the plaster. Casts are exceedingly difficult to send without breaking and should be very carefully packed in a box with the name of the sender written on it. Plaster is sometimes successfully used in place of plaster. A good photograph if sufficiently well taken to bring out all the lines, can also be sent, although in all cases the smoked paper is the best, if properly treated with fixatif.

Bear in Mind that all the above conditions must be observed.

Also, that letters not complying with them will go into the waste-basket. Readings cannot appear for several months after impressions are sent.

THERE are several hands to be read this month and I will not attempt to answer questions in this number; but I will say to "Anxiety" that her hands were read in the September COMFORT under the first nom de plume she sent, "Despondent."

The same sister wants to have a star defined exactly so that any reader may know it. The star may be a perfect one, formed by the crossing of three lines so as to make six points or ends, or it may be formed of three or four irregular lines crossing each other at the same place; or it may be formed by the junction of two lines with one of the main lines. There is no way of picturing it that would be an infallible guide.



H. C. G.

"H. C. G." are the initials of a brother who has sent his impressions several times, but who gives no nom de plume. He writes on paper bearing the heading of a coal company in one of the middle southern states. Does he recognize it? He has the hand of a successful business man. He has excellent judgment and the courage of his convictions. When he thinks a thing is right or best to do, he goes ahead and does it, regardless of the opinions of other people and generally turns out to be right. He is an ambitious man and will gain the objects of his ambition and will occupy a high position in his community or state and be greatly respected. He will be successful in a business way and will have plenty of money in his old age. He will be very much wrapped up in his business or in his public work during the middle of his career, say from thirty to fifty. He has only one serious love affair in life, although he will be a favorite and much admired by women. The one affair to which I refer comes at an early age, say between eighteen and twenty-five, but it will be broken off in some way, much to his sorrow. I think the girl will gradually grow away from him but he will never care so much for any other. He has a clear, cool head and logical mind. He will succeed in business, either as a lawyer, or as a politician, and as I said before will amass wealth before he is fifty, with fame thrown in. He will be honest and upright even in small matters and will make a true friend to those who are fortunate enough to gain his friendship. On the whole, a fortunate and promising hand.

"Aunt Jane" has a pretty good hand also, though of a very different type. She has good judgment with a taste for the artistic and romantic. She loves novels and poetry, especially of a sentimental kind. With all this she has good sense and an upright mind which makes her highly respected and will be in her favor as long as she lives. She, too, has her own convictions and is not afraid to stand up for them. She will go ahead and carry out any work which she thinks is good and proper, and not sit and dream impossible things or plan great things for other people to perform. She is courageous and much beloved by her own family and her friends. In matters of the heart she will be steadfast and true to the man she marries. She can always be trusted and she has some pet ambition which she does

not always feel willing to talk about to every one. She will live to about sixty but will not have very good health after she is fifty. She will marry not far from twenty-five and will have only one child that will live to grow up, and he will cause her a great deal of anxiety. She is by nature very nervous, but has learned to control herself in that respect. She will travel somewhat during the latter part of her life, and will have lucky journeys. Her fate-line is better than the average, indicating good luck and the gradual increase of wealth. In her last years she will be more than comfortably well off. She will always be much liked by every one, and if she has any foes will be triumphant over them. She has a talent for teaching and, if she will carefully develop it, a talent for writing; although I fear she will have to develop her bump of patience first. This too, is a fortunate hand; far better than the average.

"Helig L." has a good hand indicating long life and good degree of success in what he undertakes, but he will have to work for it. In his early life he has not had the freedom that he should have had. He has either had to work for his living too early, or his parents have kept him in too close. He will not get over the influence of that until he is twenty-five or thereabouts, but after that he will go on and be quite

lucky in everything. He will live to be eighty or perhaps ninety and there is very little trouble in his palm after he is twenty-five. He is a good friend and a steady reliable fellow who will make a good citizen of his town and state. I do not think he will hold high offices or has any taste for that sort of thing. He has a great deal of tact and knows how to get along with people very well. He, too, has some affair of the heart when quite young but he gets over it and will marry happily and rather young. He meets with some discouragement at the beginning of his career in life or when he starts out for himself, but he will come out from that and go right on through life without many obstacles in future. He will make a successful farmer or a good doctor. He is fond of reading, takes an interest in all public affairs and is a good patriot, and is steady and affectionate, a good husband and father. I would like to see more such citizens of our country as he.

"Miss May" has a strictly feminine hand, indicating gentleness and refinement but great nervousness. She is fond of music and pictures and is a good singer or player, or at least might be if she chose. She is fond of admiration, especially from the opposite sex and has a great deal of it. She will be engaged twice but will meet with opposition from her family in these matters which will cause her some disappointment and a great deal of anxiety for a time, but she will finally marry happily and settle down to enjoy life. She should endeavor not to show her feelings too plainly when she likes a young man, as that is her tendency and there is danger that the young man will become tired of her. Her health was delicate in childhood and is not very strong up to her twenty-fifth year, but after that it will improve and she will live to be a very, very old. There is a tremendous star near the centre of her hand, which may mean trouble for her, although one cannot always tell. If she were a man and had that star where it is I should say it meant riches at the expense of health. A star is always the sign of something beyond our control, a fatality of some sort. There is much in this hand to indicate riches, but I should say that to this subject at least, they will not bring happiness. It is in some respects a curious hand and if she is ever in the vicinity of Cheiro I should advise her having him read her palms, as there are some characteristics that can be detected in the warm, living hand that do not appear in a plaster cast or in the smoked paper impression.

I am in receipt of more letters asking for the terms of readings, how to take and send impressions etc. These things may all be found in the heading to these articles. Mind you observe all the conditions.

Digitus

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\$150.00 PER MONTH AND EXPENSES MADE BY ALL OUR ACTIVE MEN. WE PAY MANY FAR MORE.

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Of Fine Custom-Made Garments. We buy our cloth direct from the largest European and American Mills. We control the product of several Woolen Mills. We operate the most extensive and economical custom tailoring plant in existence, thus reducing the price of suits and overcoats to order to \$5.00 and upward; Pants from \$1.50 to \$5.00. We show a large line of suits at from \$5.00 to \$5.00. Prices so low that nearly everyone in your county will be glad to have their suits MADE TO ORDER.

WE FURNISH YOU
A large, handsome leather-bound book, containing large cloth samples of our entire line of Suits, Pants, Overcoats, etc., a book which COSTS US SEVERAL HUNDRED DOLLARS; also Fine Colored Fashion Plates, Instruction book, Tape Measure, Business Cards, Stationery, Advertising Matter, and your name and address on rubber stamp with pad complete. We also furnish you a Salesman's Key Confidential Price List. The prices are left blank under each description so you can fill in your own selling prices, arranging your profit to suit yourself. As soon as you receive your sample book and general outfit and have read our book of instructions carefully, which teaches you how to take orders, and marked in your selling price, you are ready for business and can begin taking orders from every one. At low prices, business men, farmers and in fact every one will order their suits made. You can make several orders every day at \$1.00 to \$3.00 profit on every order. **EVERY ONE WILL BE ASTONISHED AT YOUR LOW PRICES.**

YOU REQUIRE NO MONEY. Just take the orders and send them to us, and we will make the garments within 5 days and send direct to your customers by express C. O. D. subject to examination and approval, at your selling price, and collect your full selling price, and every week we will send you a check for all your profit. You need collect no money, deliver no goods, simply go on taking orders, and we deliver the goods, collect all the money and every week promptly send you in one round check for your full profit for the week. **NEARLY ALL OUR GOOD MEN GET A CHECK FROM US OF AT LEAST \$40.00 every week in the year.**

THE OUTFIT IS FREE. We make no charge for the book and complete outfit, but as each outfit costs US SEVERAL DOLLARS, to protect ourselves against many who would imitate us by copying our outfit, we require you to fill out the blank lines below, giving the names of two parties as references, and further agreeing to pay, merely as a temporary deposit, ONE DOLLAR and express charges for the outfit, when received, if found as represented and really a sure way of making big wages. The \$1.00 you agree to pay when outfit is received does not begin to pay the cost to us, but assures us you mean business. **WE WILL REFUND YOUR \$1.00 as soon as your orders have amounted to \$25.00.** Which amount you can take the first day you write.

Fill out the following lines carefully, sign your name, cut out and send to us, and the outfit will be sent you at once.

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GENTLEMEN:—Please send me by express, C. O. D., subject to examination, your Sample Book and Complete Salesman's Outfit, as described above. I agree to examine it at the express office and if found exactly as represented and if I feel I can make good big wages taking orders for you, I agree to pay the express agent, as a guarantee of good faith, and to show I mean business (merely as a temporary deposit). One dollar and express charges, with the understanding the One Dollar is to be refunded to me as soon as my sales have amounted to \$25.00. If not found as represented and I am not perfectly satisfied I shall not take the outfit or pay one cent.

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SPECIAL OFFER. Send us a club of five yearly subscribers to this paper at 25 cents each, and we will send you one of these rifles free as a premium, all charges paid.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



The Earl and Countess Aberdeen.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

The visit of the Earl of Aberdeen to Princeton, N. J., to receive the degree of LL.D. from the University there, and the notable trend of the address there on that occasion, making for peace between America and Great Britain, attracted universal attention at the time to the then Governor General of Canada. Lord Aberdeen was accompanied by his wife, who is so fully his equal in executive ability and in her active participation in public and philanthropic work that she shares general interest with him.

Both on their way to Princeton and returning, the Aberdeens stopped in Boston. In connection with work on one of the Boston daily papers I had occasion to see them several times, and I think that certain of their characteristics which greatly interested me, and which may properly enough be written of, may be of interest to others.

With all our closely hugged American independence it has often been said that we dearly love a lord. Be that true or not, a newspaper man's experience inclines me to have no doubt but what we dearly love to know how a lord looks and acts, and what he says.

A reporter's pencil is apt to be at the same time a measuring rule. When, after many interviews with little people who would make themselves big, he meets a man and woman like Canada's Ex-Governor General and his wife who are as eminent for ability and character as they are high in rank, and who are at the same time apparently as forgetful of their own position as they are free from any attempt to impose observance of it upon others, he marks that in his note book as "a bright day."

Partly because it was an unwritten law that on account of his official position the Governor General of Canada is not expected to be interviewed, and partly because I had received an intimation that Lady Aberdeen had a special interest in this visit to Boston, I sent my card, on going to their hotel, to her Ladyship. Word was brought back to me at once by the bell boy that Lady Aberdeen was engaged, and would I kindly wait.

The freshly written page of the hotel register bore the names of

The Earl of Aberdeen
Countess Aberdeen
Lady Marjorie Gordon.

I had been waiting not more than ten minutes—pseudo nobility oftener kept me waiting an hour—when I saw an exceedingly beautiful young girl walk down the stairs and up to the clerk's desk. In reply to her question the clerk nodded over into the corner where I was sitting, and she crossed to me.

Was this Mr. —? Lady Aberdeen was now disengaged, and would I kindly come up to the room? The messenger proved to be Lady Marjorie Gordon herself, whose mother, Lady Aberdeen, had sent her down to do the errand, in lieu of ringing for a bell boy.

Lady Marjorie, by the way, an interesting commentary on English and American methods of bringing up girls—was at seventeen still in dresses which if they were not short were decidedly not long, and at the various functions at which I saw her afterwards was very distinctly seen and not heard. One member of the party was an Englishwoman who, in the idiom of their land, "reads with Lady Marjorie."

Lady Aberdeen met me, as she did two other newspapermen who came in soon after, with a cordial English grasp of the hand, and when we rose to leave the room bade us god speed in the same hearty fashion.

The special errand of the Aberdeens in Boston was to interest the Canadian-born residents in that city in the scheme just then being inaugurated in Canada to establish a Victorian Order of Nurses in commemoration of the Queen's Jubilee. Lady Aberdeen, on the Sunday of their return, spoke in Tremont Temple to an audience of three thousand people, to interest them in the plan. Her Ladyship was evidently not a practiced public speaker, but she had a simple earnestness which made the words spoken by her sweet, strong voice full of force.

I think no better keynote can be had to Lady Aberdeen's character than her closing words: "I have appealed to you, dear friends," she said, "in the name of the country of your birth and the sacred ties of your childhood, and in the name of our Queen, but I venture to close with a higher appeal still. What has been the lesson of the Queen's life? What has given her her influence? Is it not that we remember when she was told that she had become Queen her first act was to ask for the help of God? Hence I venture to close my appeal with the words of our Master, himself,—'Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.'"

Equally characteristic was what Lord Aberdeen said later. For him, knowing that in his official position at that time his words must have a double importance, it was no light matter to say as Lord Aberdeen did:—"Not only will this help be cherished by my wife and myself, but it will remain an emblem of that force which exists on both sides the Atlantic as a fixed determination that we shall show not only in doctrine but in action that we shall be the followers of the Prince of Peace."

One instance of Lord Aberdeen's kindly thoughtfulness came to my attention later. Among the hardest-working people of Boston is a young woman who is a native of Halifax, and who in years back, before reverses had scattered its members to hard work, had been one of a family which had been prominent in that city, and in the province. The Aberdeens

had come recently from Halifax, the Governor General having been making an official tour of the maritime provinces. Late in the afternoon of the Aberdeens' last day in Boston a quiet reception was given them at the home of one of the most distinguished women in Boston, in order that a few people might meet them. The young woman of whom I have spoken and I had started to come away. We had said goodbye to Lady Aberdeen some little time before, and then, as both the Earl and Countess were in the center of the drawing-room surrounded by those who were anxious to speak with them, we told each other we would slip out quietly, without further ceremony.

In the hall an acquaintance detained my companion a moment, and as we stood there, she with her wrap and I hat in hand, the Earl happened to turn and see us. At once he withdrew from the circle of people around him, and coming out extended his hand as he said: "Were you really going without saying goodbye?" Then the Earl of Aberdeen and Governor General of Canada, squeezed into a corner of the hall, spent the next ten minutes in an interested talk about Halifax and the Halifaxians with this young woman, whose proudest boast it was that she earns her daily bread by hard work.

Another Reader Has Been Making Money.

In a recent issue of your valuable paper I read of the success of one of your readers making so much money selling Sugarine that I wish to give my experience. I have not made less than \$10 a day for the last few weeks. I have tried this Sugarine in all kinds of cooking and I have found it splendid. I sent for samples and directions to start with and I found the work so pleasant and easy that I am going to sell it right along. This Sugarine is 450 times as sweet as sugar. It only requires one drop to sweeten a cup of tea, coffee, milk, &c. Used for pastry, canned fruit and anything that sugar is used for. I make my own Sugarine. Write to W. H. Baird & Co., Dept. 500, Station A, Pittsburg, and they will send you full particulars free, or they will send you a sample by mail with complete directions for making it for \$2 two-cent stamps. You should sell from one to six boxes at most every place you call. With the proceeds of my work I am building a nice home. Try it and report your success in next issue. A READER.

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paid for a club of seven subscribers at
25c. each. This Cake Basket is of
the latest pattern and will wear a life
time. It is the finest silver plate, highly
decorated with beautiful patent rolled
edge. We only have a few of them
left so get up your club of seven sub-
scribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you
will always enjoy it. You can sell this
basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you
can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash
and we will send the Basket by express
and include one year's subscription.
We also have a fine five Bottle Silver
Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish
at the same price if you prefer either
one to the Basket. Address,
COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

HAIR SWITCH 65 CENTS.

WE SELL HUMAN HAIR SWITCHES to match any
hair at from 65c to \$3.25, the equal of switches
that retail at \$5.00 to \$8.00.

OUR OFFER: Cut this ad out and send to us,
inclose a good sized sample of
the exact shade wanted, and cut it out as near
the roots as possible, inclose our special price
quoted and 5 cents extra to pay postage, and we
will make the switch to match your hair exact, and
send to you by mail, postpaid, and if you are
not perfectly satisfied, return it and we will im-
mediately refund your money.

OUR SPECIAL OFFER PRICE AS FOLLOWS:
2-oz. switch, 30-in. long, long stem, 65c; short
stem, 90c; 2-oz. 24-in. long, short stem,
\$1.25; 3-oz. 22-in. long, short stem, \$1.50;
3-oz. 24-in. long, short stem, \$2.25; 3-oz.
26-in. long, short stem, \$3.25. WE GUARANTEE
OUR WORK the highest grade on the market.

Order at once and get these special prices. Your
money returned if you are not pleased. Write for
Free Catalogue of Hair Goods. Address,
SEARS, ROEBUCK & CO. (Inc.) Chicago, Ill.
(Sears, Roebuck & Co. are thoroughly reliable.—Editor.)

WANTED Reliable men and women in every
locality to advertise and introduce
our goods which are recommended
by some of the most celebrated men and women in
America. Steady employment. Salary \$20 per week.
References required. Address **OXIDINE MFG. CO.,**
Manhattan Theatre Bldg., Broadway, New York.

GOLD OMETOR, for locating Gold, Silver
and other minerals. In a pocket case.
Also Rods and Spanish needles. Cata-
logue 2c. stamp. Dept. C.
B. G. STAUFFER, Harrisburg, Pa.

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Extracts \$1000. a day from Gold-bearing gravel.
Greatest triumph of the century. Millions in sight.
Shares now \$1.00 a month. Safe as a bank. Send 4c.
for "money maker." **A. H. WILCOX COMPANY,**
529 Broadway, New York.

BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the
market an extra big lot of odd pieces of silk and satin
that just what ladies want for crazy patch-
work. We were fortunate in securing them
cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC
PACKAGES to any one sending 10c. for a three
month's subscription to COMFORT, the Prize
Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant
piece of SILK PLUSH contain 35 square inches,
together with five skeins of elegant embroidery
silk, all different bright col-
ors, all for 25c. postpaid; three
25c. lots for 65c., five for \$1.00.

A Cute Foot-Rest FREE.

Useful Ornaments
are sought after at all seasons
of the year. People do not
realize the quantities of
goodshouse sold through
the mails. Inventors are
daily trying to get up
something to sell by mail
that will be pretty, useful,
and cheap. A pretty foot-
rest could never be ob-
tained at a low price be-
fore (they sell for
\$1.00 each at the
store), but by get-
ting up something that
is turned out
by machines in
pretty colored
durable goods, to
be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and
then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be
welcome in every room in the home from
Maine to California. It comes in the shape of a
handsome Spaniel Dog-Woman, lying down, size about 8x12
inches, and can always be placed for an ornament when not
in use by grandma or yourself or company as a Foot Rest.
It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the
fire, it is a life-like in shape and color. Although entirely
new, 57,898 have already been sold, and millions more
will be in use before many months. Agents will find them
great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start
with.

BIG OFFER. We will send a sample postpaid to
anyone sending 10c., for a three months' subscription to
this paper. Two Bents and this paper 8 months for 25c.;
five for 50c.; one dozen, \$1.00; one 25c. and 10c. lot Rem-
nants 20c.; one Bent and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.
Address **COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 763, Augusta, Maine.**

TURKEYS FOR THANKSGIVING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THANKSGIVING day in New England without turkey would be like the play of Hamlet with the ghost left out. All New England farmers are aware of this, and all feel it to be a part of their yearly duties to raise and fatten the luscious bird in preparation for this great day of feasting; but most of them take to the business of turkey raising as a mere adjunct to their principal occupation. Heretofore, however, is one who makes his bit of ground into a turkey farm and the immense piles of defunct and plucked turkeys in the markets of the adjacent cities at Thanksgiving time testify to his success in his chosen work. Simply to observe the "modus operandi" in a turkey raiser's life I visited such a farm recently, and for the benefit of the readers of COMFORT I will write down my observations there.

We left Providence, R. I., by steam cars, and jogged along leisurely, stopping at every tiny village on the way until we reached Warwick. Here we alighted, and found waiting for us a veritable ark of a covered wagon driven by a grizzly, gray, weather-beaten old man, whose deep-set blue eyes twinkled at us merrily from an unshaven face as he bade us a cheerful "good-day," and threw back the old brown buffalo robe as an invitation for us to sit beside him in the wagon. For two or three miles we rode along the country road, in the chill November air, catching a glimpse, occasionally, of a red or gray squirrel scampering over the stone wall which bordered the road, and now and then hearing the sharp "tap-tap-tap" of a woodpecker. At last we came in sight, simultaneously, of glints of the blue ocean in the distance, and, near by, of a large enclosure, embracing meadow, pasture, and woodland, and filled with hundreds of turkeys, of all colors and sizes—white and buff turkeys, long, slim and gray ones, stately bronze colored birds, jet black and shining silvery ones. They were all peacefully pursuing their usual turkey avocations, but the moment we alighted from the wagon and entered the wooden gate in the wall that surrounded them they flocked towards us from all quarters, crowding around their owner and eagerly watching for indications of corn.

The finest of all turkeys for eating purposes is the cross between the bronze and the wild turkey. They bring the highest prices, and the supply is seldom equal to the demand.

The most critical time of the year to turkey farmers is the breeding season. Turkeys are naturally rovers, and in nesting time are apt to steal away out of bounds if not carefully watched, and then the young brood is generally a total loss to the owner of the parent birds. Sometimes the farmer succeeds in "fooling" them by making them nests in secluded places within the inclosures where the mother "hen" sits placidly on her eggs, secure in the belief that she is out of the reach of the vandal man. After the young are hatched she discovers her mistake, but she cannot get her babies over the wall, so she yields to the inevitable and remains with them.

Within the enclosure grass and weeds are kept carefully cropped for young turkeys until they are two months old; they are very tender and delicate, and should they get their feathers thoroughly wet by running in tall grass they would almost certainly die. Constant care is therefore necessary to see that all the young broods are under cover upon the approach of rain or a sudden shower.

As Thanksgiving approaches the turkey farmer's anxieties and cares increase. The weather is carefully watched that no sudden chill may come to his fattening birds. As the cold increases so do the appetites of the turkeys, and the farmer's stock of corn sensibly diminishes, but with the decrease in the contents of the corncrib comes a rapidly gaining weight for the turkeys. As long as he can guard against a sudden chill the farmer welcomes and rejoices in "zero" weather, for the cold, sharp air inclines the birds to huddle together for warmth, so the fat acquired by indulgence in corn is not worn off by exercise.

Finally, for about three weeks before the great day, the doomed birds are fed upon what is to them a great luxury—chestnuts. These soaked and cracked open, are given them once each day for their noon meal. The turkeys are now in prime condition, and the closing act in their lives—the slaughter scene—is holiday play to the man who has anxiously watched and cared for them during the six or eight months of their existence.

A NOVEL TICKET PUNCH.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



IN all thinly inhabited countries, every man is largely a law unto himself. This was particularly so in the early days of railroad construction in Northern Mexico, for that country was then a haven of refuge for a swarm of desperadoes who openly set at defiance what little law there was. The following anecdote is illustrative of conditions then prevailing there:

A conductor was going through his train collecting fares, when he came to a rough looking man, an American, who was sitting with his back to the forward door of the car in which he was riding.

"Ticket, please," the conductor said politely; but the passenger seemed not to hear him.

"Ticket, please," he repeated, speaking louder, but the man still remained in apparent ignorance of his presence.

"Ticket, please," he said again, gently shaking the man by the shoulder.

"This is my ticket!" the passenger snarled savagely, with a quick motion pointing the muzzle of a cocked revolver at the conductor.

"That's good, sir! that's good!" returned the quick witted conductor. "Ticket, please," he went on, turning to the other passengers, and passing on toward the rear end of the car. When he had finished his collection, he turned, and going unconcernedly past the desperado, went out of the car by the forward door.

In a few minutes the door opened again, and

the next moment the desperado felt something rubbing his head just back of his ear; he hastily turned his head around, and found himself gazing into the muzzle of a cocked rifle that was held in the conductor's hands.

Leaning slightly toward the desperado, the conductor said, courteously: "Will you kindly let me punch that ticket of yours?"

SWANSON'S "5 DROPS" is the sun of the sick room. It has saved the public, in less than five years, more money than the national debt of this country, when you measure the value of health restored, suffering humanity relieved of its agonies and diseases. Money which otherwise would have been expended in funerals, doctors and drug bills, loss of labor, etc., and relieved suffering humanity of at least 10,000,000 years of excruciating pain and agony. This is more than can be said of any or all other remedies or electrical appliances of any kind. If you have never used it, do not fail to send for at least a trial bottle.

SWANSON'S "5 DROPS" never fails to cure. It has cured and is curing millions of people afflicted with ACUTE and CHRONIC RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA, NEURALGIA, ASTHMA, LA GRIPPE and CATARRH of all kinds. "5 DROPS" has never failed to cure these diseases, when used as directed. It will cure you. Try it. Price of large sized bottle \$1.00 sent on receipt of price, charges prepaid. 25-cent sample bottle sent free, on receipt of 10 cents to pay for mailing. Agents wanted. SWANSON'S RHEUMATIC CURE COMPANY, No. 164 Lake Street, Chicago, Ill.

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Send us only 5c. and we send you Six Gold Plated lever collar buttons, either for Gentlemen or Ladies. This can only be done to introduce our great catalogue of Novelties. 5 cents for 6. Write to-day to COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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ABSOLUTELY FREE 2 U, 1st SERVED A \$4.50 package which every family wants. Send in your name at once to BRANDENBURG & CO., CHICAGO, ILL.

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The Ancient Game of Football.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE great Duke of Wellington was once asked to what he attributed the nerve and courage displayed on the field of Waterloo by the British soldiers. To the surprise of all he answered, "To football." There may have been a great deal of truth in the answer for the game of football is calculated to give the players nerve, courage and endurance.

Though cricket may be called the national game of England, yet it is undoubtedly true that football is the most popular. Last season the game played between Notts and Derby County drew a crowd of 50,000 people while the game between Everton and Aston Villa, for the trophy, the English cup, a year before, was witnessed by over 70,000 persons.

Football has been played in England since the time of Caesar, his victorious soldiers introducing it to the admiring natives. The game was known to the Greeks more than three thousand years ago and though the historians do not tell us the rules under which it was then played there is every reason to believe that it differed but slightly from the modern game.

For hundreds of years the Malays have indulged in a game resembling football, and as far back as the history of Scandinavia goes we find evidences of a similar game played in Norway, Sweden, Iceland and among the people still farther north.

The earliest description of the English game is given by William Fitzstephen, in his history of London, written in the twelfth century. The apprentices played against each other, and the various guilds offered prizes to be competed for on the football field.

In the middle ages the game was recognized as a national pastime, and all classes played it. In the fourteenth century the game was made a medium for hate, revenge and murder by some of the rougher elements. To openly injure another was dangerous for punishment was summary, but to engage in a game of football and under cover of it kill an enemy, was a safe way of having revenge for real or fancied injury.

These brutish practices, however, were not characteristic of the game but were only indulged in by the lawless. Barclay, in the "Ship of Fools," written in 1599, tells us that:

"The sturdy plowman, lustie, strong and bold, Overcometh the winter with driving the football, Forgetting labour and many a grievous fall."

History is silent on the subject of the ball itself, and it is hard to discover what kind of balls were used. That the leather case was used in early times is proved by Shakespeare who causes Dromio of Ephesus, in the "Comedy of Errors," to say:

"Am I so round— That like a football thou dost spurn me thus? You spurn me hence, and he will spurn me hither; If I last in this service, you must case me in leather." (act II, s. 1.)

The game was played on all holidays, but the favorite day of all others was Shrove Tuesday. Sometimes the feeling would become so bitter that all through Lent the players would be wishing for Easter Monday when they could again play, this time not for sport but vengeance.

In the reign of James I, the game became so rough that the king issued a proclamation against rough sport, "as football, meeter for lameling than making able the users thereof." There is an amusing description of the ancient game ascribed to Herodotus, the father of history, in whose imaginary Tenth Book the following quaint paragraph occurs:

"They obtain the skin of a pig or other beast, and when the skin has been sewn up, in form like an olive fruit, but in size as great as a man's head, in such a way that water poured into it will not run out of it again, they retire to a plain on the other side of the river, and there they fill the hide, not with water, or with anything else than air. Now the hide, filled with air, is driven about by the feet of these young men, by some quickly, but by others more slowly, but of the young men those who are unable to strike the hide with their feet, strike not the hide, but the legs of him whosever may chance to be nearest to them. But he crieth out, and if possible overthroweth him that struck him."

While cricket only finds its votaries among the few, and is long in getting a foothold in other nations, football fascinates at once and becomes popular the first time it is played. The Chinese, Burmese and Malays are crack players while the natives of India enter into the spirit of the game with an almost religious fervor.

The Malays practice kicking a wickerwork ball from one to the other without touching it with the hand or allowing it to come in contact with the ground. By this practice they become excellent football players.

Each county, each school and in fact each team of players used to have different rules, so that there was an utter lack of uniformity. The great English schools, Eton, Harrow and Rugby, did much to make the modern game one of skill and science. Each school introduced new features and several forms of football were developed. It was not until the year 1860 that Football Clubs came into recognized existence, but still there was not any uniformity in playing. On October 26, 1863, the English Football Association was established and the game began to make progress. The Rugby Union was formed in 1871 and though a strong effort was made to unite the two organizations it was unsuccessful because, "the styles of play of each were so diametrically opposed, that it was found utterly impossible to arrive at a common understanding." Professionalism in football playing was not recognized in England until 1885, though, of course men had played for money before that time.

Professionalism has made the game popular because it has enabled the players to bring it down to the level of a science.

In 1875 Harvard and Yale played their first game of football in accordance with the rules adopted in 1866 which excluded all the brutal features of the game. Soon after the game became popular with all our colleges and from the first of October to the last of November it would almost appear to a casual observer that football was the sole end and aim of the colleges, so enthusiastic are the students over this most ancient form of manly amusement.

THE smallest passenger train in the world is one running through the park of a wealthy country gentleman in England. The cylinders of its locomotive, which is, by the way, proportioned perfectly after one of the big engines on the Great Northern Railroad, are four inches in diameter, and the diameter of the driving wheels is thirty inches. The track upon which this tiny engine and its cars run is eighteen inches in width. Small as it is this engine weighs two and one half tons, and can haul, on a level track, a weight of fifteen tons. The train consists of a passenger and a baggage car which the engine can draw at a speed of twenty-five miles an hour. The rails weigh only nine pounds to the yard.

IN the search lights so necessary in all sea travel or warfare the mirror plays an important part. The electric light can be easily furnished, but the mirrors are scarce and hard to procure. They are not ordinary reflectors which can be cast and molded, but require much care and labor in their construction. They are really concave lenses, backed by silver and hardened vulcanite. The glass is first molded into shape in the ordinary way and then a grinding machine is set to work upon it to give it the necessary curve and polish. It is then tested and, if satisfactory, the silver back is put on by electrolysis and this back is covered by an opaque substance, generally vulcanite. It requires at least a week to turn out a finished mirror suitable for a search light.

MOST persons who have valuable laces think that it would ruin them to be washed, and so allow them to lie for years, turning yellow with age and dust until they drop to pieces from decay. This is a mistake. Laces should be cleansed when necessary as much as any article of clothing, and if carefully done it will add to their beauty and to their durable qualities. It is better, however, to send such things to professional cleaners than to trust their cleansing to ignorant or amateur hands.

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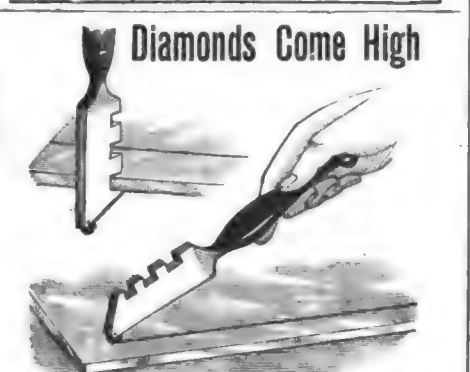


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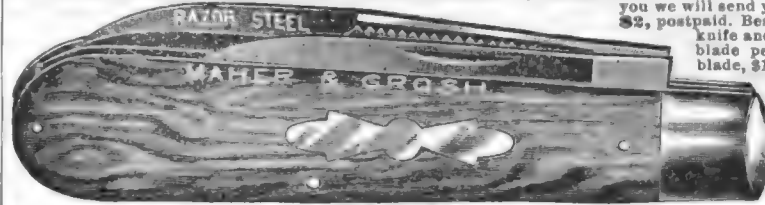


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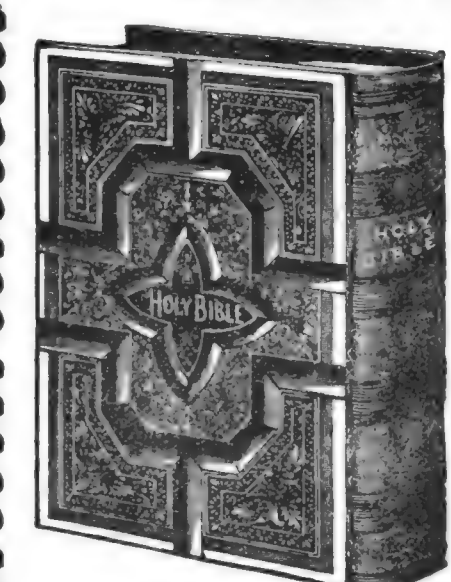
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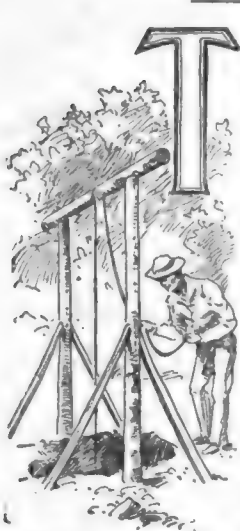


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TURQUOISE MINING.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



HE turquoise is at the present time a fashionable gem, and is often seen encircled with diamonds, its exquisite blue contrasting happily with the brilliant glitter of its brilliant setting. Until about ten years ago, the markets of the world were supplied for 5000 years by one province in the north-eastern part of Persia, and the demand for fine stones has always been in excess of the supply, though inferior turquoises can scarcely be sold at any price. Since it became known that these great mines are nearly exhausted, there has been an incentive for miners to seek this beautiful gem in other countries.

Discoveries of turquoise-bearing rock were made several years ago in New Mexico and Arizona, by prospectors who opened up shafts and cuts, that evidently had been worked centuries ago by some unknown race. Stone hammers and other rude implements were found buried beneath the surface of the ground; and, in one place, there is a dump 200 feet high, covering several acres, on which trees three or four hundred years old are growing. In Cochise county, Arizona, there is a deposit of green turquoise, showing traces of having been worked long before the occupation of the country by white men.

The most recently opened turquoise mine in America, and the most valuable one as well, is situated in the southwestern corner of Nevada, about thirty-five miles from the Colorado river, and within ten miles of the boundary line between Nevada and California. To reach it, one leaves the Santa Fe transcontinental railway line at a station on the Mojave desert called Blake, and takes a little mixed passenger and freight train that goes three times a week to the gold-mining camp of Vanderbilt, thirty miles to the north, and 5000 feet above the sea, for the camp is closely encircled by mountains. Here a conveyance must be procured for the seventeen-mile drive to the turquoise mines. Their owner had been a gold prospector for years, and had traveled over almost every foot of ground in that elevated portion of the Mojave desert. One day he came across a ledge which he knew to be similar in character to the turquoise rock of New Mexico, with which he was familiar.



A TURQUOISE MINE.

350 feet, possibly much farther. The mines were discovered in May, 1897, and produced gems the first year which attracted the attention of experts in precious stones. One light blue specimen weighed sixty-four carats, and was the largest turquoise that had been cut in America at that time. Another, darker in shade, weighed thirty-two carats; and another, twenty-seven carats. These were thought remarkable by jewelers; but they were eclipsed in 1898 by two gems, each weighing more than 140 carats, which their owner named "Texas," (for his native State), and "Nevada."

The value of turquoises depends on several things besides their size—color, freedom from blemishes, hardness, and susceptibility to polish. The product of this new mine is proving of the first class, and dealers in the large cities of this country and of Europe are glad to handle it. An objection to many turquoises is that they fade out nearly white in a few months after being cut, when the per cent. of water in them has evaporated. Those found in the Nevada mines bear the brand "True Blue," and stand the color test perfectly. This branch of mining is much less expensive than the extraction of gold or silver ore, with all the attendant details of complicated machinery, costly re-

duction works, etc. Two or three trustworthy men, with a few simple appliances, can secure enough gems from the soft talo formation to keep a lapidary busy and yield a handsome profit to the owner of the mines.

Though not classed with the most precious stones, large turquoises of fine quality are valuable. A sixty-carat stone is worth \$4000. Ring stones retail at from \$25 to \$100 each, the price being \$16 a carat. A large proportion of the rough material taken from the ledges is not marketable at any price, but there is always a demand for good stones. There is a great deal of loss in the cutting, when some of the nodules prove too soft, and others fly to pieces on the wheel. All turquoises do not turn out to be gems. Many sham turquoises are in the market. Odontolite—the tooth or bone of the extinct elephant called the mammoth, is preserved in the ice of Siberia and palmed off as turquoise. It emits an odor when heated by which it can be detected. Callanite is another substance that is sold for the genuine article. Though lighter and duller in color than turquoise, it has sufficient resemblance to the real gem to be deceptive.

Centuries ago, turquoises were highly esteemed. The Aztecs almost revered them. None have ever been produced in Mexico, so it is a question whence came the numerous fine specimens that Friar Manco de Niza, Coronado, and others found freely used for ornamentation in the southwestern part of this country, in the 16th century. The most reasonable supposition is that they were obtained from the workings in New Mexico, Arizona and southern Nevada that have recently been reopened. The ambassador sent by Montezuma to Cortez brought four *chalchihuitls*, (the Mexican term for turquoises), with him, each of them described as being worth more than "a load of gold," and among the crown jewels of Spain are turquoises of great value that were presented to Charles V. by the ruler of the strange new country across the seas. This gem became known in Europe when Alexander the Great and his soldiers returned from their conquests in Asia, bringing with them many rare jewels. Shakespeare has immortalized it by making Shylock declare that he would not have lost his turquoise ring "for a whole wilderness of monkeys." In 1609, an English writer asserted that no gentleman's elegance was complete unless he possessed a fine turquoise. In Germany, it is the favorite engagement ring.

Superstition surrounds the gem with an atmosphere of good luck, in contrast to the glowing opal. According to an Oriental proverb, "A turquoise given by a loving hand carries with it happiness and fortune."

It is the birthstone of all who were born in bleak December, and for such we have the rhyme,

"If cold December gave you birth,
The month of snow and ice and mirth,
Place on your hand a turquoise blue,
Success will bless whate'er you do."

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N. B.—To the Old Chronic Case that has tried everything and spent money in vain and to those cases complicated with Female Troubles, Weakness and any Urinary trouble this liberal offer is of great significance and should be taken advantage of in the promptest possible manner.

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Holland, Its Dykes, Dunes, Canals and Polders.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE existence of Holland today is due to the unceasing struggle of its people to hold that which they have won from the sea by centuries of toil. Winds, waves and grasping neighbors have tested the right of possession with the Hollanders; undismayed, they have continued to pile up ridges of mud, strengthened them by the interlacing fibres of the roots of the willow and poplar trees, and driven millions of piles through the soft morass to reach the firmer soil beneath.

Upon these artificial mounds they built cities and ships to sail from them, originating a commerce which brought wealth and luxury to Holland. Sea walls were constructed, dykes constantly lengthened and strengthened, morasses, lakes and abandoned peat beds drained, a remarkable network of canals furnished communication throughout the country as a once worthless marsh was brought into a condition of extraordinary fertility. It would be well-nigh impossible to find a more sublime picture of patient toil resulting in final triumph, than in the Hollanders' contest with the sea. Eight hundred years ago Holland contained but 600 square miles; the present area is nearly 13,000 square miles, with a dense population of about 5,000,000.

As the larger portion of the land lies below the level of the sea, the dykes and dunes are of the greatest importance in preserving it from the encroachments of the sea, while the canals, windmills and sluices are other features of the elaborate system which prevents the long-baffled waves from engulfing the low lying cities and plains. The dunes or sand hills are formed by the action of winds and waves, while the dykes are a credit to the persevering industry of the plodding Hollanders. These dunes rise on the north coast from thirty to one hundred and thirty feet, and cover and uncover large areas as the winds blow the sand from point to point. These white hills are a fit supplement to the ghostly fogs, the gray, misty atmosphere and other characteristic features of this quaint land.

Many dykes are embankments of earth, clay and sand, held together by the roots of trees that line them or a kind of coarse grass that is planted for that purpose. Others are of the most substantial masonry; hundreds of miles of such have been constructed along the north coast from 25 to 40 feet high and 20 to 30 feet wide at the top. Sometimes wagon roads are laid out on the top of a dyke or a railroad built there giving to the traveller an incomparable view of the "Hollow Land." On the one side the gray North Sea beats against the strong wall that holds it back, and on the other stretches away thrifty Holland with its fertile fields, grazing herds, busy canals, countless windmills, picturesque villages and prosperous cities.

In Friesland alone two hundred miles of the coast is dyked; at one point three rows of piles forty or fifty feet in length have been driven down for sixty miles, then strengthened by great timbers brought from Norway, spiked and banded with iron.

The coast at Helder is exposed to the sweep of the entire North Sea, and to protect it in 1819-1825, the famous Helder dyke was constructed of Norway granite; it is five miles long, from twelve to fifteen feet wide, and the massive bulwarks that hold it in place extend 200 feet into the water. During a storm the waves dash furiously against this barrier, often rising twenty feet above the level of the land it guards. Another upon the island of Walcheren is built of clay, sand, stones and wood, which is noted for its strength and solidity; it is maintained at an annual cost of \$30,000.

The hundreds of miles of dykes belong to the Dutch government, which expends \$3,000,000 annually in keeping them in good condition. A corps of engineers known as "De Waterstaat," have especial care of the dykes, also of the elaborate system of drainage, by means of the numerous canals, which serve many useful purposes. They drain the country, take the place of fences or hedges and furnish means of communication throughout the land. One of the two principal canals extends from Amsterdam to the Helder, a distance of 46 miles; this is 130 feet wide and twenty feet deep. The North Sea Canal is fifteen miles long, reaching from Amsterdam to the east coast, and is from two to three hundred feet wide. Both of these are provided with immense sluice gates and cost enormous sums.

Not only is the incoming of the sea to be guarded against, but the rivers and lakes are a constant menace. For instance, when the spring rains come in Germany and the heavy snows melt, the Rhine brings down a vast volume of water, which would submerge the whole land without the utmost vigilance. Three immense locks with five, three and two gates have been constructed to control the flow of the waters, if these sluice gates are opened at low tide and the rapid rush of water carries away the sand which has accumulated at high tide, so that the waters can make their exit to the sea.

Night and day, the dykes are guarded by watchmen, whose duty it is to see that not the slightest orifice appears to give entrance to the water, as it would enlarge minute by minute, hour by hour until a great chasm would be made, through which a mighty, rushing flood would overwhelm the land. Their past history has taught the necessity of such constant care; no country has suffered as Holland has from inundations which have drowned thousands of inhabitants, destroyed villages and towns, and permanently submerged great tracts of land. A willful injury to a dyke is accounted a crime, and is punished according to the degree of the offence, by a fine, imprisonment, or, in some aggravated cases, by death. Such extreme measures are of the past; stringent laws, and an enlightened public opinion suffice at this present time.

Another work of the government is reclaiming land that has been submerged for centuries; these lands are called polders, and possess some advantages; the soil is rich, not requiring an artificial stimulant, and as they lie below the level of canals and rivers, the fields never suffer from drought. There are a number of these polders, but the most important one at this

time is the Haarlem. An inundation in the sixteenth century united small lakes near Amsterdam, into one, the Haarlem Lake. This was eighteen miles long, nine wide, with an average depth of twelve feet. At high water it invariably overflowed its banks, but in 1838 the destruction of Amsterdam and other cities was threatened, and the government decided to dyke and drain it. The work was completed in 1850, and though it cost more than a million of dollars it has well repaid the expenditure, furnishing homes for 10,000 inhabitants upon fertile farms, where there are the most productive gardens in all Holland.

This was a marvelous feat of engineering skill, but Holland is preparing for a more gigantic one, the draining of the Zuyder Zee. This great gulf only came into existence at the time of a destructive flood in the thirteenth century, and its average depth is only eleven feet. The Haarlem Lake gave back 45,000 acres of land, this will give 500,000. The design is to divide the Zee into four parts, build great dykes, and from one portion after the other, gradually pump out the water, leaving a lake in the centre of the new polder, connected by canals with the other great canals, completing a system of water ways navigable for large ships. The project is colossal; its execution will require thirty years and the estimated cost is \$50,000,000.

When the task is finished, Holland will have 800 square miles more of territory adding to her national wealth twelve times the sum expended; at the same time she will have demonstrated anew to the world the courage and moral greatness of a people, who under such natural disadvantages possess the patience, perseverance and skill necessary to compel the waters to give back the lands which they engulfed hundreds of years ago.

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AN OBLITERATED TRAGEDY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



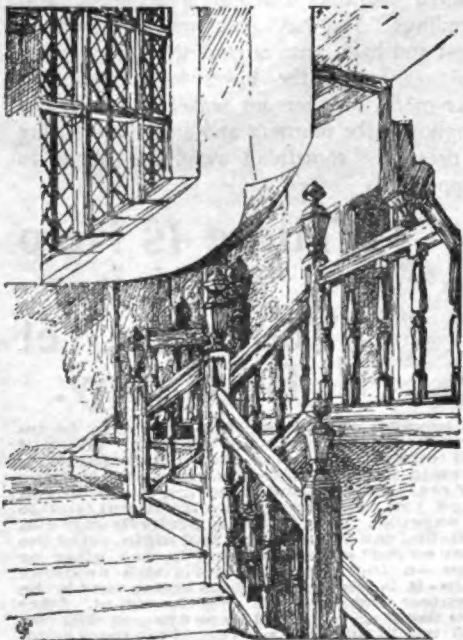
THE world has seen few tragedies more pathetic than that which culminated when Mary Queen of Scots was executed. Is it merely a coincidence that today, of Fotheringhay Castle, the powerful fortress in which the Queen was beheaded, only one stone remains, and that in all Great Britain no drawing or likeness of the castle can be found. There is an old legend, current all over England, that when, after the death of Queen Elizabeth, James of Scotland, Queen Mary's son, became king of England, he cursed the castle of Fotheringhay, in which his mother had suffered such an awful death, and commanded that it be blotted off the face of the earth.

Not long ago I spent several weeks at Oundle, an English town two miles from the site of Fotheringhay, and found it interesting to study on the ground itself the history of this spot. Fotheringhay today consists of a tiny village of stone cottages clustered near one of the oldest and quaintest churches in all England. Past the village flows the river Nene, a narrow but deep and sluggish stream. Travelers coming from the south cross the Nene here by an old stone bridge called the "Perio Bridge." Just as this bridge connects Fotheringhay to the southern country so its name links the life of today with the troubled times of Mary and Elizabeth.

It is said that through all the weary years of Mary's imprisonment, before she came to Fotheringhay, she never lost the hope that Queen Elizabeth would eventually pardon her. Six months before her death a royal order came for her to be transferred to Fotheringhay, and she was brought there under guard. Just as the cavalcade reached the bridge over the Nene, a horn was heard to sound not far away. Mary declared that this was a courier coming from the Queen with her pardon, and commanded that her retinue be delayed. Her wish was granted, but after a little delay it was learned that the horn was only that of a huntsman in the forest. When this information was brought to her Mary exclaimed in Latin, which language she spoke fluently, "Perio," which means "I perish." And ever since this has been called the "Perio Bridge."

A huge mound of sand beside the river marks the site of the castle. From the top of this mound it is possible to trace the outlines of the walls and moat which defended the castle. The river Nene was the chief protection on one side. Thistles grow on the mound now, and the damp places which were the moat are masses of forget-me-nots. The sandy mound is honey-combed with rabbit burrows, and even now the energetic legs of these animals sometimes kick out a bit of human bone. Of the castle itself only one stone remains, a big, shapeless rock, weighing several tons, down by the river side.

Romantic as is the legendary reason given for the disappearance of the castle I hardly think, myself, that it is true. It seems more probable that after Queen Mary's death the property changed hands several times, in the wars which followed, and that it was neglected until it was in such poor repair that it was not judged worth restoration. As a result it was sold piecemeal to any one who wanted to buy building material, both wood and stone, until in the course of a hundred years or so all of it was carted away except this one rock, too heavy to be moved intact and of too little value to be quarried. The Talbot Inn, at Oundle, a quaint old hostelry of stone, is said to have been built of material brought from Fotheringhay, and there seems to be good reason to think the rumor true. A superb old oak staircase in the Inn came from the castle, and was undoubtedly the one down which Queen Mary went to her death. I used to stand at the head of these steps, and closing my eyes, imagine that I heard the sweep of the Queen's black velvet gown as the mournful little procession went down to the great hall of the castle.



STAIRCASE DOWN WHICH MARY QUEEN OF SCOTS WENT TO HER DEATH.

Mary was confined at Fotheringhay for the last six months before her execution. It is said that during this time she sowed the seeds of some Scottish thistles sent her, and that the thistles now growing on the castle's site are the result. I do not know that this is so. I only know that the thistles are there, and that the variety is one which is not at all common in that part of England. I dug up a plant and

brought it carefully home and set it out in the garden, where, at last accounts it was growing finely.

We who in America can look upon so few monuments of tragic history stand almost appalled on ground like Fotheringhay. The very site itself probably marks a scene of battle, since historians say that the mound on which the castle stood is of artificial construction, built there by the Angles and Danes as a vantage ground from which to defend a ford by which the river was crossed at that point before the bridge was built. The first castle on the spot was built by Simon de St. Liz, who had married a great niece of William the Conqueror. It was almost always royal property, and almost always seemed to bring a curse upon its owner.

One of the first owners of Fotheringhay was Mary of Valence, that unhappy Countess of Pembroke whose husband, married to her only an hour before, was killed at a tournament held to celebrate their wedding. She lived all her life-long widowhood at Fotheringhay and when she died devoted her whole fortune to founding Pembroke Hall, Cambridge, to her husband's memory. Her successor was that Duke of York who was smothered in his armor at the battle of Agincourt. This man's brother Duke of Cambridge, who succeeded him, was beheaded on a charge of conspiracy against King Henry V. The son of the last named owner, another Duke of York, was killed at the battle of Wakefield Green, and his twelve-year-old son was killed with him. This death sent another unhappy widow, the Duchess Cecily, to live for thirty-six years at Fotheringhay, until her own death occurred. While there she had to mourn the cruel death of her two grandsons, the two little Princes in the Tower, and to have only too good reason to fear that their murderer was their own uncle and her son, evil Richard III, who, very fittingly, had been born at Fotheringhay.

Many of these semi-royal personages are buried in or around the old church, and I deciphered on the end of the stone communion table there this inscription: "Sissily, Dutchess of York, Daughter to Raulfe Nevell, first Earl of Westmoreland."

Early in the reign of King Henry VIII he settled Fotheringhay Castle upon his first queen, Catherine of Aragon, who repaired it at great expense, and seems to have been fond of the place until her husband, enamored of some of her successors, proposed to make the castle Queen Catherine's prison. Then she declared that she would never go there again unless "bound with a halter rope." Eventually, though, she was buried at Peterborough Cathedral, only ten miles from Fotheringhay.

Is it any wonder that Mary, Queen of Scots, when she learned that Fotheringhay was to be her destination said that she saw written over the castle gate, "Abandon hope all ye that enter here?"

FREE HAIR FOOD.

All who wish to be cured of dandruff, save their hair and grow more should send name, age and full address, with a small lock of hair extracted from roots (5 or 6 hairs sufficient), and a statement of the present condition of scalp to THE CRANITONIC HAIR FOOD CLINIC, 526 West Broadway, New York, and you will get a free bottle, by mail prepaid, with full directions for use, and a free report on the condition of your hair, after a scientific microscopic examination has been made in the Cranitonic Laboratories, the only Hair and Scalp Clinic in America devoted to the study of hair and scalp diseases.

Vienna's oldest painter, Rudolf Abt, has been voted a pension of \$480 a year.



I CURE FITS

When I say I cure I do not mean merely to stop them for a time and then have them return again. I mean a radical cure. I have made the disease of FITS, EPILEPSY or FALLING SICKNESS a life-long study. I warrant my remedy to cure the worst cases. Because others have failed is no reason for not now receiving a cure. Send at once for a treatise and a Free Bottle of my infallible remedy. Give Express and Post Office.

Prof. W.H. PEEKE, F.D., 4 Cedar St., N.Y.

A Gold-Lined Silver Dish FREE!



To introduce our new line of Quadruple Plated Silverware we will for 30 days send either one of these beautiful gold lined silver dishes FREE to any one sending a club of two yearly subscribers to SUNSHINE at 25c each, or send both dishes, all charges paid, for a club of three at 25c. each. These goods are made up in the latest 1899 style, are guaranteed to wear well, as they are the best quadruple plate. The very lowest store price of either article is not less than \$1.00 or \$1.50, and as these beautiful articles can be used for all sorts of tables either on dining or side tables, they make invaluable household necessities as well as beautiful ornaments. We will for a short time send either style dish free to all who send 30c. for a year's subscription or will send both dishes, all charges paid, if you remit \$2.00 for a two years' subscription to SUNSHINE, the great home monthly. Don't delay but send at once. Cash quote you wholesale rates on our new Premium goods that will get you rich. Address: SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

SENT FREE TO MEN

A Discovery for Lost Manhood Sent Free to Every Sufferer Who Will Write for It.

G. B. WRIGHT WAS RESTORED TO HEALTH AND MAKES A GENEROUS OFFER.

Geo. B. Wright, a merchant and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich., who was permanently cured of lost manhood and nervous debility after declining health for years offers to send the medical prescription that effected the



cure to every reader of COMFORT who is suffering today as he suffered. All who will drop him a letter asking for a copy of the prescription will receive it by return mail free of charge. As certain as a wound leaves a scar, and as sure as effect follows cause, do men live to repent their follies and indiscretions in weakness and suffering. The tortured sufferer may bear no tell-tale marks of ruin upon his face to betray his lost manhood. He goes to his grave a human wreck, and never tells of his sufferings for fear of shame. Such mental anguish at times drives him to the verge of desperation, and he is easy prey for those vultures in human form—quack doctors—who hold out alluring hopes of cure only to disappoint, and after robbing him of his money, plunge him into absolute despair.

No one can appreciate these horrors of lost

manhood except he who has suffered them. No one can help such sufferers except he who knows a cure and has himself been restored to full manhood. A notable cure of lost manhood in an extreme case was effected in the person of Geo. B. Wright, a music dealer and well-known citizen of Marshall, Mich. Mr. Wright for years suffered the agony of lost vital power. He saw his physical powers go from him as the result of insidious disease until he was reduced to a condition of senility, and the best doctors in the country gave him up to die.

Like many others, he tried the various remedies offered by specialists for the treatment of weaknesses peculiar to men and it was this experience that drove him to a little study and research for his own benefit.

He asserts that his 10 years' suffering, both mentally and physically, was turned to undoubted joy in a single night through a rare combination of medicines that literally made him young again. It is the prescription of this discovery that his enthusiasm leads him to offer free to any man, young or old, who feels that his animation or the fire of ambition has left him and needs something that will not only brace him up and enable him to be prepared for any undertaking which may present itself but will restore the parts to their original size and vigor.

There is no question but what in his individual case the results were just as described, and it seems quite probable that any man who believes himself to be weak may profit by sending for this free prescription. Many people wonder how he can afford to send this prescription free, but it costs him but little to do so, and he feels a philanthropic interest in giving weak men an opportunity to cure themselves.

A request to G. B. Wright, music dealer, Box 811, Marshall, Mich., for his free prescription, will be promptly and privately complied with by return mail.



CHINESE PUZZLE.

WE ASK NOT ONE CENT of your money. This Picture Puzzle represents a Celestial engaged at washing. About him are pictured faces of three customers. Find these faces, mark each, and return to us. To each patron who can interpret this puzzle, we will give a full size Fountain Pen and Filler.

FOR EVERY CORRECT ANSWER

IN making this marvelous offer, we have no desire to pose as benefactors. It is a business transaction to introduce CANDIED CRUSHED CARNATIONS, a delicious and fragrant breath perfume, and all who are awarded a Fountain Pen we require to distribute for us among friends 25 Sample Packages. In order that these may not be received by unappreciative people, we require you to collect

5 cents for each sample, and as this is to advertise, we send a PRIZE TICKET FREE with every package, which entitles each purchaser to a handsome piece of jewelry, which will not cost less than the Breath Perfume. After distributing the 25 Packages and Prize Tickets, you return our \$1.25, thus fulfilling your agreement. We then give you for this service, free, and in addition to the

you also the Solid Gold Shell Ring and Pin. Nothing could be more fair. Persons alive to their own interests should avail themselves of this great offer at once.

NATIONAL SUPPLY CO., 46, 48 & 50 West Larned St., DETROIT, MICH. MENTION THIS PAPER.

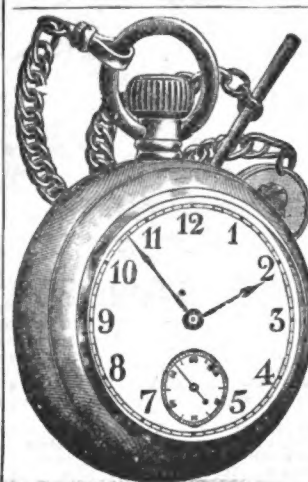
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By your Fruits you shall be Rewarded.

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LUMP

We will divide One Thousand Dollars among those who arrange correctly these ten groups of letters into the names of Ten Well Known Fruits. For example: TOPARIQ is APPLE. Can you solve the rest. If so you will get your share of One Thousand Dollars, payable Dec. 30, '99. For instance, if ten correct answers are received each receives One Hundred Dollars. If one hundred correct answers are received each receives Ten Dollars, and so on. This is the only fair and square way of awarding prizes as the entire amount (One Thousand Dollars) is sufficient to pay everyone well for their brain work.

NO MONEY OR CONDITIONS ASKED. We do not ask a penny in this fair and square contest as we have nothing to sell, only wish to introduce our magazine into new homes and know that by awarding One Thousand Dollars in cash prizes it will advertise us. Our magazine is long established and full of interesting reading and is published by women for women and the home circle. Although unsuccessful before, this time you may win a fortune. The money will positively be given away and you can succeed with a little study and no expense. Write immediately, distance makes no difference. We will send you cash award check if correct by return mail. Address WOMEN'S CO-OPERATIVE ASSOCIATION, New York City.



WE GIVE THIS WATCH FOR A CLUB OF 4.

Thirty Minutes is a short time, but many have earned one of these watches in less time than that. It is one of the very best watches for time ever offered to our readers at no matter what the price asked for it. We know, of course, there are watches that cost more money, because they are in gold or silver cases, but they will not keep any better time, simply because they cannot. This watch keeps near perfect time, we never saw the watch that did, but it keeps as near perfect time as watches usually do. We have such faith in this watch as a timekeeper that we send with every one a guarantee just as binding as that given with any watch, no matter what make. We are willing to give you this watch if you will do us a slight service, which you can easily do in an hour. We wish to increase our subscription list, and we want the assistance of every reader of this paper to that end. We do not want you to do it for nothing, we will reward you for it. You can easily secure this valuable watch if you get four subscribers to this paper, at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each. Do this, sending us \$1.00, with the names of four subscribers to this paper, and we will send our paper to each subscriber for one year, and we will send you the watch to reward you for your efforts in our behalf. Start out now and see what you can do. Remember we guarantee every watch. If you get five subscribers and send us \$1.25 for the same we will also send you a nice chain. Address: COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.



INTER beigns when the Sun reaches his greatest southern declination, as he passes into the sign Capricorn. This occurs this year at about 12 minutes before 8 o'clock in the evening of the 21st day of December, when the last degree of the sign Aries will be on the midheaven and the 10th degree of the sign Leo will be rising in the east. Neptune will be the only heavenly body of the Solar System that will be above the Earth, though the Moon will make its appearance above the eastern horizon soon after 9 o'clock of the same evening. The figure erected for the time at Washington, the seat of government, shows Mercury, Herschel, Saturn, the Sun and Mars all within the bounds of the 5th house; Jupiter will be in the 4th; Venus in the 6th; the Moon on the cusp of 2nd, and Neptune in the 11th house.

The sun is ruler of the scheme and is in trine with the Moon, but besieged by the malefics Saturn and Mars in the 5th near the cusp of the 6th house; which indicates unusual prevalence of diseases involving the lungs and liver; cold will be the primary cause of diseases and mortality will be greater than usual from pneumonia, consumption, typhoid fever, gout and rheumatism. Unusual precautions should be taken in these directions. The malefics all in the 5th house does not promise favorably for hotels, theaters, and public schools. Indeed, some serious catastrophe involving loss of human life and injury to persons from fire or panic is apprehended, and school authorities and parties engaged in catering to public entertainment should be particularly guarded in care of those temporarily under their charge. Some bad eruptive trouble among children is likely and violent disorder or riot in northwestern sections or among the Indian tribes. The Executive authorities are likely to be kept busy in northwestern regions of the country where clash of arms is threatened over international questions. The favorable aspects of the Moon with the Sun, Saturn, and Mars and all with the Midheaven of the figure, with Jupiter angular gives very favorable indications for progress and growth of the Nation and her importance among the Nations of the world. Two Eclipses fall within the limits of the month of December, an annual eclipse of the Sun on the 2nd and a partial eclipse of the Moon on the 16th of the month. The eclipse of the Sun is not visible in this country, but is to be seen in the south polar region and in New Zealand and Southern Australia; indicative of some unusual physical phenomena and changes with disturbances of a political nature. It falls in the sign Sagittarius and near to the malefics in the 5th and 6th house, and in the sign ruling Spain and Hungary; and troubles in those countries continue to come. The partial eclipse of the Moon on the 16th is visible in the United States and generally in both America, Europe, Asia and Africa. The portents of these eclipses falling so near the congress of so many of the heavenly bodies indicates marked physical and political changes in the world at large, both as to rulers and governments. All of the figures emphasize the suggestions already given as to the classes of diseases to be guarded against and as to schools, hotels and theaters.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR DECEMBER, 1899.

DECEMBER. 1—Friday. Begin early and improve every moment of this day, particularly for money ventures; buy goods for trade and deal with officers of large corporations, judges, and those engaged in the ecclesiastical callings; seek money accommodations, adjust accounts, and deal with persons of wealth and station.

2—Saturday. This day has but little to recommend it and the pursuit of routine matters only is recommended.

3—Sunday. The first two-thirds of this day are peculiarly adapted for intellectual engagements and for converse with the philosopher and mathematician; the late afternoon and evening are forbidding and caution is given that strife and contention should be avoided; extra care should be had in handling inflammables and explosives for fires and explosions are likely to be more numerous and destructive than usual in these passing days; look out also for hurts from animals and machinery.

4—Monday. The middle hours of the day are the best, particularly for literary labors and dealings with persons in such callings; also with artists, musicians, dramatists and in commercial enterprises concerned with the artistic or decorative in life.

5—Tuesday. Urge all affairs of an honorable nature; have money dealings, consult lawyers, judges, clergymen, bankers, and persons of wealth or who are employed about monied institutions.

6—Wednesday. Push business to the utmost on this day with eccentric characters and with government officers in the afternoon when also change residence and travel. The time is quite unfavorable for persons born about the 15th of March or June or 18th of September or December, of past years, and the majority of such persons, if of mature age, are now in the midst of trying influences and will seem to be battling in nearly all their undertakings; they should be particularly careful in these winter weeks of their health, avoiding exposure to inclement weather as much as possible and seeing that coughs and colds are not neglected. Many of these are in the midst of strife or litigation and are cautioned against rashness in any of their acts; they should take care that they are not injured physically through their own carelessness.

7—Thursday. Choose the early hours for literary pursuits and mental labors; do important correspondence, and push thy business; make written applications for favor from officers of state and persons in authority; engage servants in the forenoon and deal with printers, booksellers, and intellectual people.

8—Friday. Users have a day of profit and advantage, and thou shouldst be wary with thy purse, being sure not to buy goods for any speculative venture; have care in extending credit and see that money is not lost through carelessness.

9—Saturday. Defer important correspondence and avoid business with officers of the government or persons in authority; do not execute any contract, nor travel unnecessarily.

10—Sunday. Bridge your tongue during the forenoon hours lest quarrels come; the mind at this time will specially incline towards the curious in science, art, and mechanism and ingenious, new and unusual ideas are born and peculiar doctrines become attractive; give preference to the afternoon for all mental efforts and for engagements in connection with the world of letters.

11—Monday. Be in no haste to begin any of the elegant pursuits in the morning hours when matters of taste are not favored; see that the inclinations are not extravagant and keep the expenditures under close scrutiny; the mind conceives peculiar and unusual ideas, notions, whims, and inventive capabilities are quickened; the latter part of the day is best for dealing with judges and officers of rank.

12—Tuesday. Choose this day for transactions concerning real estate; deal with the contractor, plumber, ship-builder, miner, machinist, manufacturer, chemist

and cattle-trader; inaugurate new business connected with machinery or in the nature of manufacture or construction, masonry, excavation, etc.

13—Wednesday. The afternoon is the best part of this day, especially for literary labors or engagements, matters of account or collections, and for commercial contracts pertaining to fancy goods, dress materials, jewelry and all articles of adornment; seek pleasure from the musical or dramatic entertainment in the evening.

14—Thursday. Do not purchase anything for profit on this day and have care that extravagant inclinations are held well in check.

15—Friday. This day is evil and little if any prosperity is likely to attend important undertakings now begun; it is better to save the energies at this time letting the day pass as best it may and resting quietly until a more opportune time; avoid landlords and make no contract with laboring classes.

16—Saturday. Partial Eclipse of the Moon. Conditions are quite unfavorable for any move of an initiative character, especially if concerned with houses or lands; seek no favor from thine employer or from persons in authority. The time is unfavorable for persons born about the 25th of February, 28th of May, 30th of August, or 28th of November of past years, as they are likely at this time to have some mental anxiety over writings, contracts, or matters of account or have nervous or mental excitement or baffling annoyances in their affairs. On the other hand, most of those born about the 26th of January, 27th of March, 29th of July or September, of past years, are likely to be having more profitable and agreeable correspondence, effect more satisfactory business arrangements or contracts, and should improve the time for beginning studies or making important intellectual engagements.

17—Sunday. Seek nothing but rest and quiet during all of this day though the evening hours are to be preferred over the other parts of the day.

18—Monday. A fair day, though it cannot be recommended for the beginning of any very important undertaking; the elegant pursuits are particularly opposed; do not purchase any articles of dress or decoration and be not surprised if little progress is made in any artistic pursuits.

19—Tuesday. Improve every moment of this day; the merchant, traveler and all engaged in monetary affairs, banking, or in the literary pursuits are favored on this day; buy goods for trade; make application to officers of large corporations or government officials for favors; travel and change residence.

20—Wednesday. Peculiarly appropriate during the forenoon hours for engagements pertaining to patents, trade-marks, or any kind of patented wares; urge the literary pursuits early in the day.

21—Thursday. An excellent day; bargain for houses and lands, make contracts for their improvement and deal with aged persons and the agricultural classes.

22—Friday. Be early astir for urging the chemical and mechanical pursuits and dealings in metals and machinery; consult thy dentist; travel; and trade in cattle, hardware and cutlery; the evening is adverse for literary work and mental processes; correspondence is best postponed.

23—Saturday. Urge all undertakings of a scientific, literary or artistic nature and press all general business.

24—Sunday. The day after the morning abounds in benevolence, being especially conducive to religious fervor and inviting communion with the poet, musician and artist and giving special appreciation of the beautiful in religion, nature, and art.

25—Monday. Christmas. Be not impatient in the morning, and as the forenoon advances be active in all literary matters or in removal or travel.

26—Tuesday. Consult and ask favors of aged persons; deal in houses and lands and the produce therefrom and make contracts with builders, masons, miners, farmers, plumbers, and persons generally in the laborious callings.

27—Wednesday. The elegant and artistic pursuits are not favored in the morning, when no purchases of wearing apparel or artistic goods will be satisfactory; seek favor or promotion from public officers or those in authority during the middle hours of the day.

28—Thursday. The forenoon of this day especially encourages all mechanical and chemical pursuits also dealings with cutlery, tailors, policemen, military men, surgeons, and all workers and dealers in glass or metals; as the day advances let every energy be devoted to the prosecution of literary work; make engagements with printers, or publishers; execute contracts; do most important correspondence and begin thy journeyings.

29—Friday. Continue thine efforts of yesterday with unabated zeal, particularly during the forenoon; purchase goods for trade and deal with clothiers, wool-dealers, judges, counselors, and all persons in the elegant pursuits.

30—Saturday. Give the bulk of thine energies to the pursuit of thy literary engagements; deal with printers, booksellers, and mathematicians.

31—Sunday. The year closes with a very evil day when no matter of importance should be inaugurated in connection with church affairs.

To Cure Piles and Female Diseases.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It never fails to cure any of the various diseases peculiar to women, such as leucorrhoea, displacements, ulceration, granulation, etc., or the piles from any cause or in either sex. I will gladly mail a box of this wonderful medicine free to every sufferer. Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 106, Kokomo, Ind.

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A 50c BOX
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That every invalid lady may learn how quickly she may be cured of uterine troubles, displacements, painful periods, leucorrhoea, etc., I promise to send by return mail in sealed plain package to any lady who will write for it a 50 cent box of a simple home remedy that cured me after years of suffering. There is no charge whatever. Write to-day for yourself or for your friend.

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There is a FORTUNE in it for you. I will send Starting KEY FREE. You can be made a Hypnotist at once. M. Young, 363 Henry St., Brooklyn, N. Y.

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An Offer Every Sufferer Will Be Sure to Accept.

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Company has decided that every man in America who is suffering from Lost Manhood, shall have the opportunity to try out this wonderful remedy CALTHOS in his own individual case. For that purpose they have recently imported 100,000 special 5-day treatments, to give away as a trial, free of any charge whatever. If you suffer from Lost Manhood, Varicocele, Weakness of any nature in the Sexual Organs or nerves, (no matter how caused), or if the parts are undeveloped or have shrunk or wasted away, CALTHOS, will cure and restore you.

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All correspondence relating to the "CALTHOS" department of our business is strictly confidential. We neither publish nor furnish testimonials. Address applications for trial treatment to THE VON MOHL COMPANY, 907 B, Cincinnati, O. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States

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2. KAO.
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We will give \$200.00 in Cash to anyone who can arrange these eight groups of letters into the names of eight well-known Forest Trees. Each group of letters when properly arranged, spells the name of a common forest tree which is used by carpenters and builders. You can only use each letter in its own group and only as many times as it appears in its own group. Altogether there are eight groups and eight correct names, so if you can arrange the letters into the eight names of the trees, we will give you \$200.00 in Cash. If more than one person sends the correct answers the money will be equally divided and will be paid Dec. 15, 1899. Understand, however, that we have one condition, which may take a few hours of your time, and we will write you about it when you send your answer.

We make this liberal offer so that you may become interested in our business. We want you to work for us in your own locality, and propose to make it an object for you to do so. Distance from us does not make any difference. Try and Win, but do not send any money with your answer. It looks like an easy task, yet it is a test of skill. We make this generous offer to every reader of this paper who can solve this puzzle. It is straight business with us. As soon as we get your answer, we will notify you if the names you send are the correct ones, and will also inform you fully of the work which we wish done that will enable you to win. Write at once, giving your full name and address plainly.

COLONIAL TRADING COMPANY, 404 Atlantic Avenue, - BOSTON, MASS.



A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.

GREATEST MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler or painter or the man who will do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of forty-four first-class tools, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for last; 1 shoe hammer; 1 shoe knife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails 5-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 yds. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; 1 harness and saw clamp; 1 box assorted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for halfoiling, etc.; 1 copy directions for soldering all securely packed, together with directions for use, in a neat case. These tools bought at a hardware store separately would cost between \$7.00 and \$9.00. You can repair boots and shoes, tap and heel them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of tinware, repair pumps, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repair and mend rubber boots, rubbers, overshoes, and all kinds of rubber made articles. The clamp is used for mending harness and things saws. Has a coil spring and is made of iron. You can easily save five times the cost of this outfit in six months and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs. will be sent by freight complete as above described for only \$1.62 which includes a 6 months trial subscription to this paper.

GREAT PREMIUM OFFER.—If you will get up a club of 7 yearly trial subscribers to this paper at the special price of 25 cents each, we will send you one of these repairing outfits as a present to you.

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

THE WIZARD of the WEST.

Prof. S. A. Weltmer of Nevada, Mo., Who Heals Disease Without the Aid of Drugs or the Surgeon's Knife, Compared With the Healing God of 292 B. C.

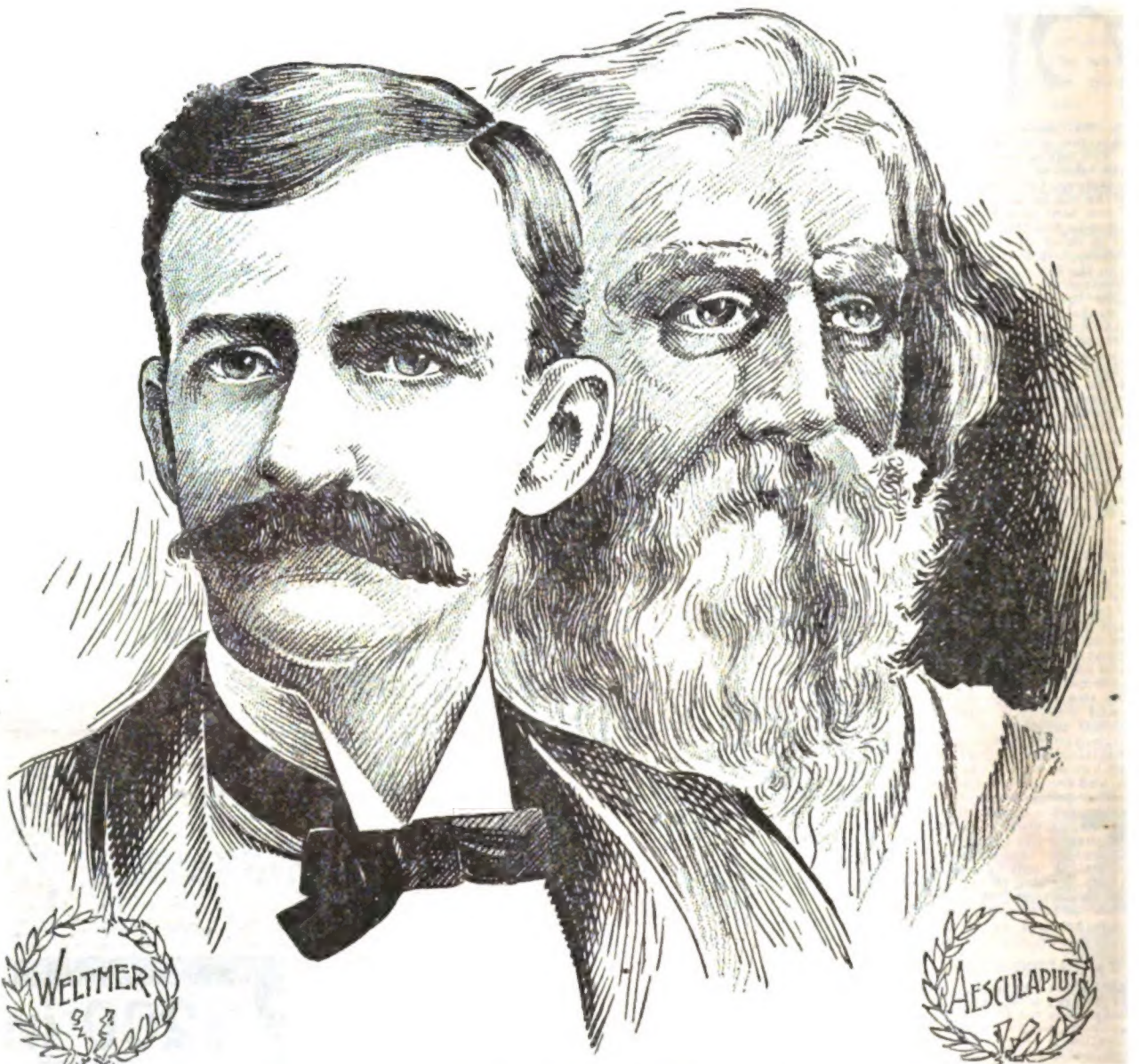
By the Absent Method Weltmerism Annihilates Space and Makes it Unnecessary To Go To Nevada for Treatment.

THIS WONDERFUL DISCOVERY REVEALED TO ALL.

The phenomenal cures made by Prof. S. A. Weltmer of Nevada, Mo., have been so astounding and wonderful as to attract the attention of scientists and physicians throughout the world. An eminent physician who has won the esteem of the medical profession by his history of Aesculapius, the healing god, known in B. C. 292, says: While it is true that we are told that Aesculapius became so efficient in the healing art that he actually succeeded so far as to restore the dead to life, and in this way offended Pluto who complained to Jove of the innovation and Jove slew Aesculapius by a flash of lightning, still in making my researches up to the present day, I can say without hesitation that Prof. S. A. Weltmer, the great Nevada, Mo., Scientist, who originated the Method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism, has done more for science and humanity than did Aesculapius, for this wonderful man has followed the precept of the Living Christ. In this I do not mean to be sacrilegious but to emphasize my statement by saying that the Great Nevada (Mo.) Scientist is following in the path made by Him who was born at Bethlehem, and healing without drugs or the surgeon's knife. Again, Prof. S. A. Weltmer is more generous to humanity than was Aesculapius, for the latter had a few followers, known as the Asclepiades, who were bound by an oath not to divulge the secret of the healing art, while any one placing themselves in communication with Prof. S. A. Weltmer can receive instructions from him, for he is most anxious to teach his art to others, that the great method, of which he is the founder, may live and continue to bring the afflicted to health and happiness, even after he has passed to the great majority. Weltmerism has been so perfected that in its wide scope it reaches all classes of people, for this wonderful curative power annihilates space and cures patients at a distance just as readily as it does those who go to Nevada for treatment. Thousands of testimonials from worthy people in every walk of life, are in possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing of Nevada, Mo., and the seeming miracles performed by this great scientist are so wonderful that they would be doubted by the skeptical ones if the proofs were not so positive. Through the courtesy of Prof. J. H. Kelly, the eminent co-laborer of Prof. Weltmer, we are permitted to publish a few of the thousands of testimonials in his possession:

Mrs. Lucy A. Shook, wife of Rev. H. C. Shook, Minister of the M. E. Church, Bucklin, Mo., suffered for five years with constipation, indigestion and poor circulation. She was under the constant treatment of medical doctors, but continued to grow worse, until finally she decided to go to Nevada, Mo., for treatment. One physician, with fifty years' practice, told her she would never reach the Weltmer Institute alive. Her husband strongly opposed her taking the Weltmer Treatment, as he had no faith in it, but finally consented as he did not want to oppose his wife's wishes longer, as he believed her a dying woman. Mrs. Shook was brought to the Weltmer Institute on a stretcher; she took six treatments and is now a well woman. Rev. Shook left Nevada with his wife most enthusiastic over her cure and is now a firm believer of Weltmerism.

Hon. Press Irons, Mayor of Nevada, was afflicted with kidney and bladder troubles for ten years and could find no relief in the usual remedies. In one week he was completely restored by Prof. Weltmer.



Mr. John S. Small, Colfax, Ill., was deaf in his left ear for seven years; could not hear a watch tick when placed against this ear. Was permanently cured in three days by Prof. Weltmer. Mr. L. W. Rains, a wealthy lumberman of Hornbeak, Tenn., suffered constantly with kidney trouble for twenty years; also with constipation and prostatic troubles. Exhausted the best medical skill, but to no relief. He fortunately heard of Prof. Weltmer, and was soon restored to perfect health, and now says this treatment will cure anybody. Mrs. M. E. Hawkins, Louisburg, Kan., was afflicted twenty years with prolapsus and enlargement of the womb, indigestion and perpetual headache. Tried everything that offered relief and gave up in despair. Heard of Prof. Weltmer, took his treatment one week and was permanently restored to health.

Prof. Weltmer also possesses the remarkable ability to cure people at a distance, and hundreds have been restored in this way. Mr. G. W. Hightower, Tiff City, Mo., was a total wreck, having suffered many years with stomach, liver and kindred troubles. Tried every-

thing without relief. Fully restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method.

Mrs. Minnie Porter, Texarkana, Tex., was afflicted for eighteen months with kidney and other diseases, and for twelve months unable to get out of her bed. Was expected to die at any time. Permanently cured by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method and has gained sixty-five pounds.

Mrs. Lavisa Dudley, Barry, Ill., suffered for thirty years with neuralgia and stomach troubles. Nothing but morphine would relieve her. Permanently cured in a few weeks by the Absent Method of Treatment.

Mrs. M. A. Devault, Defiance, O., was afflicted five years with dropsy, stomach and kidney troubles. Could get no relief from medical science. Was fully restored by Absent Treatment in ten days.

Mrs. M. M. Walker, Poca, W. Va., suffered with eczema, indigestion and female troubles. Dozens of doctors failed to give any relief. She was permanently restored by Prof. Weltmer's Absent Method in two months.

Mrs. Jennie L. Linch, Lakeview, Mo., was

for two years afflicted with ulceration of the womb, heart and stomach troubles and general debility; was reduced to a mere skeleton. After taking gallons of obnoxious medicines without relief, she tried the Weltmer Absent Treatment. In less than thirty days she was entirely relieved and gained fifteen pounds.

The Weltmer Method has cured thousands of helpless invalids. In fact, the cures have been so marvelous it can be said there is no disease known that it will not reach. The Absent Method by curing at a distance makes it possible for Prof. Weltmer to benefit all classes of people. There can be but one logical reason given for the grand work done by Weltmerism and that is, it has a greater grasp upon scientific truth than any other method known to mankind.

Any of the readers of the COMFORT writing to Prof. S. A. Weltmer, Nevada, Mo., will receive free of charge the MAGNETIC JOURNAL, a 40-page illustrated magazine and a list of remarkable cures positively proving the wonderful power of this method over all diseases.

LEARN THIS NOBLE PROFESSION.

The American School of Magnetic Healing is organized under the laws of the State of Missouri, and is a chartered institute founded for the purpose of teaching the new method of Magnetic Healing, known as Weltmerism. Prof. Weltmer is the president and Prof. Kelly the secretary and treasurer of this school. The method perfected by the American School of Magnetic Healing is so complete in all its details that the students become as efficient as Prof. Weltmer himself in this art to cure in ten days. This noble profession, which is taught either by mail or personal instruction, by its application cures and benefits the delicate and nervous woman of all the ailments known to woman; the overworked man, whose very manhood and vigor are lost by exertions and indiscretions; the sickly child; in fact it reaches all diseases known to the human frame and gives the possessor of this wonderful art a power that never was held by man until Weltmerism became a fact. You can become perfect in Magnetic Healing; no argument can be put forth to the contrary. It is a power born in every human, just like the faculty of speech, and only needs to be brought to the surface. The hundreds of successful students of the American School of Magnetic Healing, who are now healing the sick in every portion of the country, are positive proof that any one who desires can learn this profession, and any one who learns can practice it. There is no nobler or better paying profession. Prof. Weltmer finds it impossible to attend to the

enormous demands made upon him to cure; he therefore wishes others to take up his profession, so that he may call upon them to assist him in his noble work. He also wishes to perpetuate Weltmerism, as he is positive that in the near future it will revolutionize the art to cure. He also knows the only way to perpetuate it and make Weltmerism the standard for all times to come is to teach his profession to others.

The following letter is one of the many in the possession of the American School of Magnetic Healing.

Prof. J. H. Kelly, Sec'y., Nevada, Mo.:
Dear Sir:—Your mail course in Magnetic Healing was received some months ago. After reading some, I caught your idea and at once proceeded to put it into practice, and found I could accomplish all and even more than I anticipated. I have never failed to get immediate results in all cases treated, and I have made a number of cures in cases that have been given up by the best of our physicians as incurable. I expect to devote my entire time to this work, but should I never use it outside of myself or family, would consider it the best investment I ever made.

J. T. IGLEHART, Meridian, Miss.

Thousands of letters in possession of Prof. Kelly, the secretary, are abundant proof that any one can learn this grand profession in ten days. For full instructions free, address

PROF. J. H. KELLY, Sec'y., Nevada, Mo.



PROF. J. H. KELLY.

Secretary American School of Magnetic Healing.